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Summer
1992

Meadowlark

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Summer 1992 *Volume 1, Number 1*

Illinois Ornithological Society

The Illinois Ornithological Society gratefully acknowledges the following contributors, founders, and affiliate for their generous donations and support.

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ABOUT OUR COVER ILLUSTRATOR

Denis Kania drew the meadowlark, a familiar sight in fields throughout the state. Kania, a member of the Du Page Birding Club and American Birding Association, has exhibited his drawings at the Midwest Birding Symposium. He accepts commissioned work and can be contacted at: 1536 Preston Road, Naperville, IL 60563.

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Illinois Ornithological Society
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Diane Johnson
Denis Kania
Contributing Photographers
Glen Jahnke
Joe Milosevich
Bill Oakes
Layout and Graphics
Walter Marcisz
Printer
Ed Barresi, Reprox, 2216 South Vandebenter
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Meadowlark

A Journal of Illinois Birds
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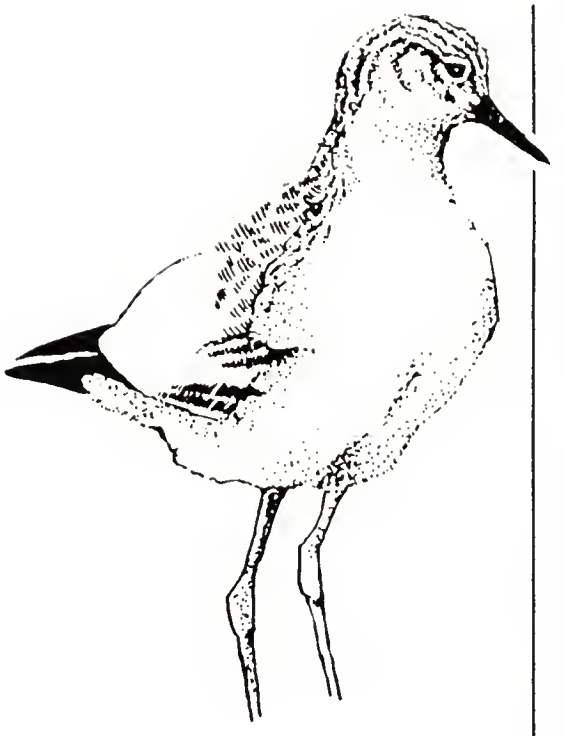

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Taking wing

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the premiere issue of *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*. This quarterly journal is published for you - whether you're an ornithologist, student, beginning birder, advanced birder, feeder watcher, or bird lover of any type.

We will feature a wide variety of articles about the birds of our prairie state as well as provide permanent Illinois ornithological records so valuable in research.

In this summer issue, we focus on breeding birds. At least 176 species of birds breed in Illinois, as evidenced by the six-year long breeding bird atlas. Our lead article written by associate editor Peter Friederici tells you about the rewards of being involved in such an atlas.

Ornithologist and college professor, Dr. Scott Hickman, shows in his article about the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project how creating suitable habitat for breeding birds can make a difference in Illinois bird life. Plan a trip to the wetlands project this summer. It's a fascinating place for study and recreation.

Also, Sue Friscia observes the antics of fledgling birds getting their first lessons in feeding from their parents at her 10 backyard feeder stations. David B. Johnson gives you lessons in identifying juvenile and definitive basic Chipping Sparrows in Field I.D.

Todd Fink and Judy De Neal provide tips on shorebirding Rend Lake in southern Illinois. In fact, IOS has scheduled a field trip to Rend Lake on Sunday August 23. Judy and Todd will guide you, hopefully, to Buff-breasted Sandpipers and other shorebirds starting at 8 a.m. See details following their article.

We hope you enjoy our premiere issue and that you'll support this fledgling journal as we grow and learn. We welcome your suggestions and comments and appreciate your patience as we work to make each forthcoming issue better. We also welcome writers, illustrators, and photographers to submit materials. See the back of the journal for details.

A special word of thanks goes to all our contributors. The associate and technical editors, illustrators, photographers, writers, and advisors are hard-working volunteers with professional experience in editing, writing, photography, drawing, graphics, bird identification, and ornithological research.

They deserve your support.

Let us hear from you. Good birding.

Sheryl DeVore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it has finally arrived - the first journal for your new statewide birding organization! I'm sure you will be as pleased as I am with this our inaugural issue of *Meadowlark, A Journal of Illinois Birds*.

It's not by chance that such quality can appear overnight in your mailbox. *Meadowlark* is the result of countless meetings, proposals, letters, phone calls, disagreements, direction changes, weekend hours, surveys, and large doses of aspirin.

All the while, we were also working on organizing the Illinois Ornithological Society, writing bylaws, appointing officers and establishing goals. Our aims are well-defined and I'd like to share them with you:

* to promote the scientific, educational, and recreational aspects of ornithology in Illinois;

* to publish a journal of Illinois bird life;

* to keep a permanent historical record of Illinois bird life;

* to promote the preservation of bird habitat and endangered bird species in Illinois;

* to maintain an up-to-date state checklist of Illinois birds according to standards of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

We will also conduct field trips, hold an annual meeting and schedule ornithological activities pursuant to the society's goals. Further refinement of the society's aims will always be made according to the IOS membership wishes.

Let me know your thoughts on this issue. The journal staff and IOS board members have traveled a long road thus far and I'm sure wouldn't turn down a nice word or two.

I'll pass along your comments to the appropriate parties involved. Until next time, enjoy.

Eric Walters

AVIAN ATLAS

Breeding Study Provides Insights, Valuable Data

by Peter Friederici

Hundreds of Illinois birders searched for signs of nesting birds during the past six years. (Bill Oakes photo)

They spent 38,000 hours for six years trudging through scratchy fields, swatting mosquitos, sloshing through wetlands, tripping over branches, and peering into thorny thickets in the summer heat. But now, 700 bird watchers participating in the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas can relax while their data is analyzed, computerized and published. They can also revel in the fact that they have confirmed the nesting success of 176 species out of 220 observed in the state and that along the way they've gained new insights into bird behavior.

"Some of the surveyors were initially interested mainly in listing," said Bob Montgomery, senior staff biologist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee and statewide data compiler for the project. "Their main concern was if a particular species was present or not," he recalled. "But once the hardcore birders got exposed to it, they weren't just interested in checking off lists anymore. They learned to tell what the bird was doing by watching it," he said. "They started asking why the birds were doing what they were doing. Is it showing courtship behavior? Is it carrying off fecal sacs?"

Montgomery is compiling 67,000 occurrence records from 1,300 surveyed blocks, entering the data into the foundation's computer system and checking results with the coordinators who oversaw the surveys of every county. He expects to tabulate final results by fall when work will begin on producing the definitive book on breeding birds in Illinois that will make the reams of data

accessible.

Breeding bird atlases began in Europe in the 1950s and in the U.S. in the 1970s. Six states have already published their atlases; in most others including Illinois, the projects are currently underway. Compilers divide an area, such as the state of Illinois, into sections according to a standardized grid, and determine which species are breeding in which sections.

The atlas provides a snapshot of a region's bird life. Volunteers gather information with sufficient scientific rigor so that it may usefully be compared to data gathered in the future.

Vernon M. Kleen, an avian ecologist in the Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division, has been gathering data on Illinois' breeding birds since the mid-1970s. The introduction of the state Nongame Wildlife Checkoff Fund in 1984 provided dollars for a more elaborate statewide project.

Kleen established a grid of 281 squares on a map of the state. He then divided the sections into four quadrangles and then into six blocks of about ten square miles each. Since it wouldn't be feasible to survey every one of the more than 6,000 resulting blocks, Kleen designated one priority block out of the six that should be canvassed. Other blocks containing unique habitats or species richness would be surveyed if time and energy allowed.

Kleen relied almost entirely on the 700-plus volunteers mustered through Audubon chapters and birding clubs to perform the field work. "Without the volunteers, this project would not have worked," he

Vermilion County Team Confirms 121 Species

Mary Jane Easterday of Danville has been getting to know the birds of Vermilion County for 20 years now, so it's no surprise that she and a few other dedicated birders were able to confirm 121 nesting species in the county during the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas project. Easterday says Vermilion County's diversity of habitats including grasslands, forest, and wetlands helped her team confirm the highest number in the state.

But her favorite birding technique was also ideally suited to the close observation the atlas required. "I'm a lazy birder," she said. "I go somewhere and sit, and I don't mind sitting there for three or four hours. That's when it's great, because the birds go back to doing what they do. It works really well, especially when looking for hummingbird or hawk nests. The hawks are really sneaky."

Sitting quietly and patiently for a good portion of the day enabled Easterday to discover a Cooper's Hawk nesting in one sparsely wooded tract.

County coordinator Marilyn Campbell said local birders logged 1,681 hours of field work during the project's six years, observing a total of 137 species. The team put in almost 250 hours on one rich block on the Vermilion River.

Easterday, who works in the Danville Public Library, began surveying for Great Horned Owl nests in February. But she took her vacation in June just so she could spend time in the field everyday.

Easterday doesn't drive, so she talked fellow birder and library employee Vonna Bley into driving her to atlas sites and retrieving her several hours later. When Easterday wasn't on vacation, she and Bley birded after work until dusk.

Easterday also learned that some of the least desirable sights for bird watching - fields of corn and soybeans and railroad tracks - produced some of the best atlas finds. "Now that a lot of the railroads are abandoned, a lot of birds are there," she said. "We've seen everything from hawks to cuckoos to warblers - birds you don't expect to see in the middle of a farming community."

Her proudest moment came when she was finally able to confirm the nesting of a shy Henslow's Sparrow. Easterday sat for two hours in 90-degree heat waiting for the sparrow to muster the courage to run to its grassland nest.

"I got stung by seven bees while I was waiting," she said, adding that the Henslow's Sparrow was the highlight of her atlasing career even if she did end up with welts.

--Peter Friederici

said. "It would have been prohibitively expensive."

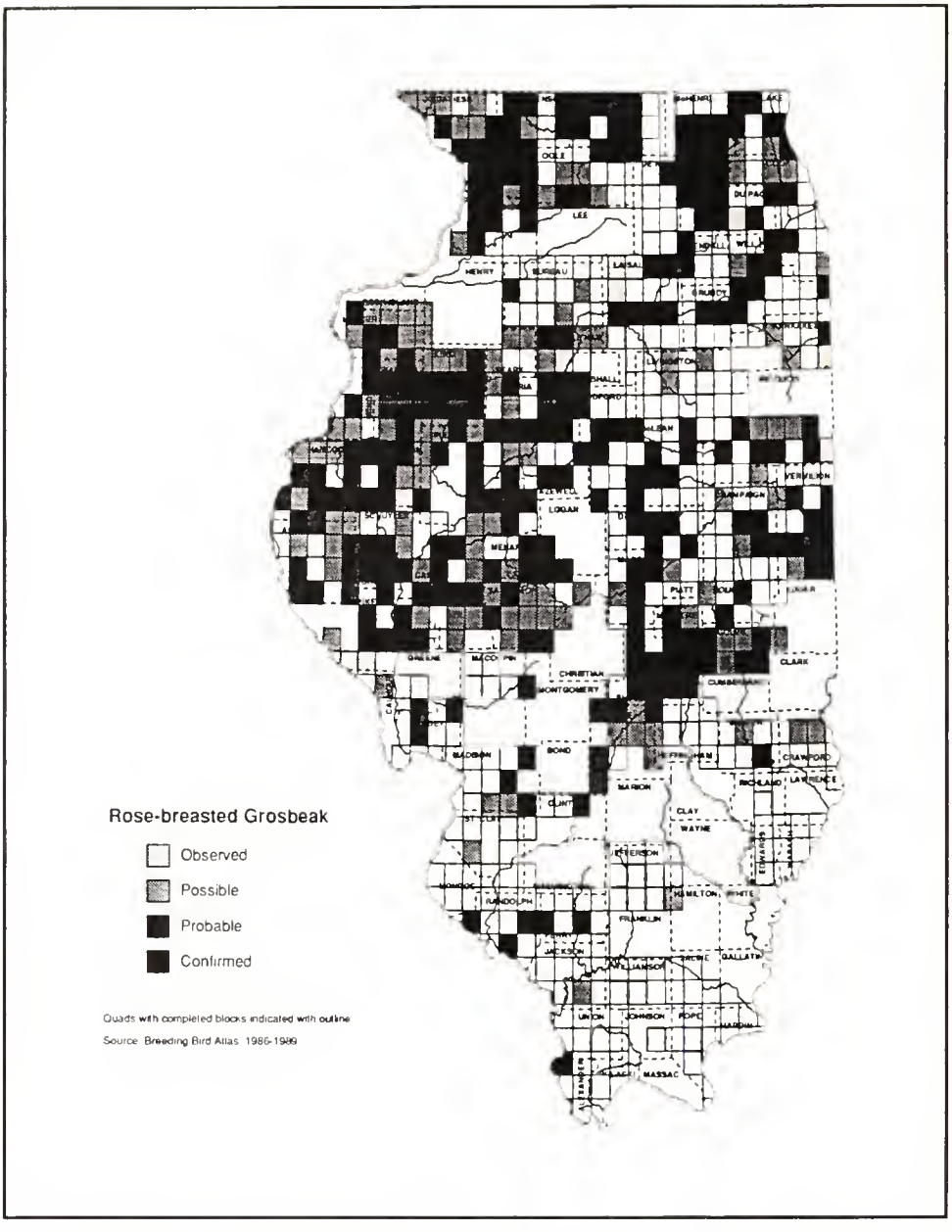
Volunteers followed a standardized code system to describe the status of every species. A bird seen or heard in a block was labeled as observed, possibly breeding, probably breeding, or confirmed breeding. The latter two categories were further split into another seven to ten categories that describe the type of behavior leading to a particular designation. Breeding could be confirmed, for example, by observing nest building, recently fledged young, an adult carrying a fecal sac or a nest with eggs.

'You never look at a bird the same way again.'

Throughout the project, volunteers tried to nudge as many species as possible into the confirmed category. Sometimes it was difficult to confirm the nesting of even common species.

"The Common Yellowthroat was one of the most frustrating," said Margaret Mechtenberg of Kane County. "We had to work very hard on that. And the Warbling Vireo - we were almost ready to cheat on that one," she admitted. "We heard him singing in a particular area year after year but never got beyond the probable category."

"You never look at a bird the same way again after doing this kind of atlas work," added Mechtenberg, who now more closely observes bird behavior when out in the field. Keen observation techniques helped her to discover a Common Yellowthroat performing its spiraling aerial courtship display. "It's something I wouldn't have been aware of unless I was looking for it," she said.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak's Illinois breeding season distribution as determined by Atlas researchers. Map courtesy of Ms. Lian Suloway, Center for Biodiversity, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois.

Along with learning to observe nuances of behavior, surveyors also gained greater understanding of habitat. Marilyn Campbell, coordinator for Vermilion County, said one of her team's most satisfying finds was the Least Bittern.

"It was in a wetland we had just put in at Kennekuk County Park on the middle fork of the Vermilion River," she said. Workers tore drainage tiles out of a bottomland area that had been farmed, and then allowed the area to flood. "That really enhanced the park area," said Campbell, who discovered the Least Bittern the first year of the renovation.

"It's gratifying to see how quickly the place was used," she said. "Of course, that

continued on page 8...

Atlas Work Reveals Trends, Surprises

Bob Montgomery birded southern Illinois throughout his childhood and into his college years and rarely saw a Rose-breasted Grosbeak there. But now, according to information gleaned from the six-year long Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appear to be extending their range southward, said Montgomery. He is a senior staff biologist at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Dundee.

The confirmed breeding of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in counties such as Union in extreme southern Illinois is a pleasant surprise for Montgomery, who has been compiling the data since the atlas' inception.

Although such data can't reflect population trends, it can pinpoint some distribution changes in birds, he said. "There's certainly some range expansion occurring with the Rose-breasted Grosbeak as well as the Blue Grosbeak," said Montgomery. The Blue Grosbeak has been confirmed nesting in northern Illinois within the past few years and was not found there years ago, he said.

Montgomery noticed another trend - the apparent increase in frequency of reporting of nesting grassland species such as the Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrow, and possibly Grasshopper Sparrow. Montgomery speculates this tendency resulted from a statewide conservation reserve program which requires highly erodible farm fields to be left fallow or converted into grasslands. "This created habitat for the grassland species and habitat is a key to successful nesting," he said.

Researchers should be careful; though, not to use this data to determine population trends, Montgomery reiterated. For example, scientists think that certain neotropical migrants that breed in Illinois such as wood warblers and vireos, are declining in numbers, he said. The atlas results show that these birds continue to breed in Illinois, but don't show if the number of successful nestings has declined. "We're not recording actual numbers, just the presence or absence of a species," said Montgomery.

Since wetland habitats are declining dramatically throughout Illinois and the U.S., one might expect a breeding atlas to reflect the situation. But Montgomery cautioned that "wetland species are dependent on dynamic habitat. Some years they are present when the conditions are right; other years, they're not."

Apart from noticing possible trends, Montgomery also enjoyed hearing about certain surprises such as the first breeding record of the Golden-crowned Kinglet in Illinois. The bird, typically a northern coniferous forest breeder, successfully nested at Morton Arboretum in northern Illinois. "That's probably due to the fact that there are large tracts of coniferous plantings there," said Montgomery. Volunteer atlasers also recorded the successful nesting of Red Crossbills, which typically nest farther north, he said.

--Sheryl De Vore

Editor's Note: As Montgomery continues reviewing the data, ***Meadowlark*** *will feature follow-up reports. We'll also let you know the progress on publication of the atlas data and how you can obtain a copy.*

...continued from page 6

shows how important the habitat is."

Areas like Kennekuk County Park were intensively surveyed because local birders already knew of the rich diversity of bird life there. Some blocks where volunteers were not as easily found were surveyed more cursorily, according to Kleen. Many of those blocks were surveyed during block-busting weekends, when several birders, sometimes students or professional ornithologists, traveled to an area and birded intensively for a day or weekend.

Initial plans called for all data-gathering to be completed within five years. But Kleen added the 1991 season because so many blocks hadn't yet been surveyed.

The number of species observed and confirmed within counties varied widely. That stems, of course, from differences in range, habitat diversity, and degree of development. But those areas most intensely covered, obviously, produced the greatest number of confirmed species. The three counties in which over 100 species were confirmed through 1990 - Vermilion, Will, and Winnebago - were all surveyed for well over 1,000 hours.

Still Kleen said, "We weren't able to get as thorough a study throughout the state as we would have liked. But we couldn't go on forever."

It's likely that inconspicuous species like Henslow's Sparrows or Least Bitterns were missed more often than, say, Red-tailed Hawks, added Kleen. He sees it; however, as an invitation to future researchers. "The atlas is designed to be updated any time," he said.

A sighting of Eastern Kingbird and nestlings confirms the species. (Glen Jahnke photo)

"Someone could decide that we missed a lot of the good stuff, and if you go back now and survey another block of the five of every six, you'll get complementary information."

The atlas data will help in measuring long-term trends. The study invites comparisons in 10, 20, 50, or 100 years. "The atlas will be a snapshot of distribution and relative abundance of breeding birds of the state - information that will help the department of conservation make decisions on managing avian resources," said Kleen.

"We hope it will have a lot of use beyond the birding community," he added. Planners, for example, could use the book to learn that the site of a proposed development is rich in bird life. "They'll ask, 'How can we develop it with minimal impact on the bird population?'" Data about threatened, endangered, or other scarce species may become particularly important in making management or development decisions, said Kleen.

Meanwhile, volunteers are not ready to hang up their binoculars in the summer even though the project is over. Mechtenberg said the atlas has enabled her "to intimately get to know" one area that she would not have not otherwise visited. Mechtenberg plans to visit those sites again this summer. Maybe this will be the year that she finds that Warbling Vireo's nest. ■

The Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project

Improving Habitat Quality for Nesting Birds

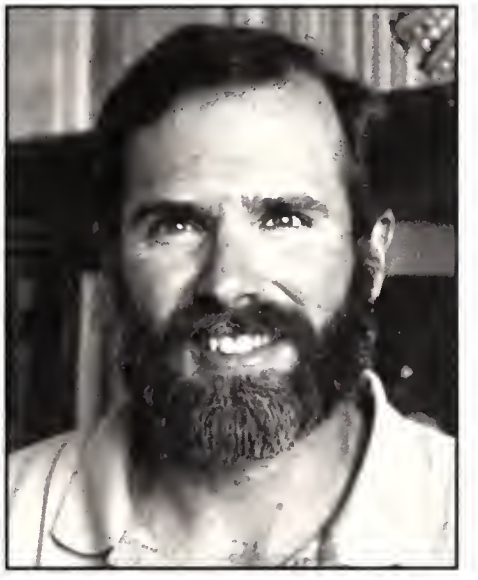
By Dr. Scott Hickman

More than half of the presettlement wetlands within the contiguous United States, including over 96 percent of Illinois' wetland habitats, have been drained for agricultural and urban use. This extensive loss of wetlands affects the nesting success of birds requiring this habitat for breeding and has become a growing national concern.

These dismal statistics have also made the possibility of supporting these birds through wetland restoration of keen interest to conservationists and researchers alike. An effective wetland restoration project can improve habitat quality for nesting birds as is evidenced by the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project (DPRWDP) in northeastern Illinois.

The project is a joint effort by conservationists, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the state of Illinois, and the federal government. Working together, members of these organizations have restored to a 2.8-mile stretch of the Des Plaines River the water-purifying, flood-controlling, and wildlife-sustaining functions provided by the wetlands that used to border much of our pre-settlement river systems.

To accomplish this, a portion of the water from the Des Plaines River is pumped into a series of six man-made marshes bordering the west side of the river (Fig. 1). The water



Dr. Scott Hickman surveys the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project in Wadsworth, where he performed breeding bird studies. (Bill Oakes photo)

flowing into and out of these marshes is carefully monitored to determine the effectiveness of the project in meeting its water-purification and flood-control goals. Research to date indicates success in meeting both goals, with the constructed wetlands removing over 80 percent of the nutrients and sediments they receive.

The effectiveness of the project in meeting its goal of supporting wetland birds is assessed herein by comparing avian usage of the site before restoration with that which is occurring after restoration.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Before restoration, few sites for wetland birds existed within the project area. The highly disturbed restoration site consisted primarily of abandoned farm fields and grazing land, old orchards, remnants of a Christmas tree farm, a few small wetlands, a bur oak/white oak savannah choked with underbrush and saplings, and a sterile water-filled gravel quarrying pit. Much of the area was covered with non-native vegetation, and/or weedy sapling thickets including Old World meadow grasses such as Kentucky Bluegrass and non-native species such as Common Buckthorn.

Breeding bird censuses were conducted during both pre-restoration and post-restoration periods by the transect - listening stop method recommended

by the Illinois Department of Conservation. This method entails recording all birds seen or heard while slowly walking prescribed transects through the area being studied. The researcher using this method also pauses for five minutes at listening stops located along the transects and similarly records all birds seen or heard.

Pre-restoration censuses were conducted in 1985 while post-restoration censuses were conducted during 1990 and 1991. Figure 1 shows the locations of the post-restoration transects. Pre- and post-restoration transects were censused approximately once per week from the end of May to the middle of June for a total of four censuses per transect during each census year.

Additional efforts were made to determine the presence of rails. Rails are secretive and may be missed by the listening stop - transect method described above. Taped recordings of King Rail, Virginia Rail, Yellow Rail, and Sora were played at the listening stops shown in Figure 1 when the surrounding habitat was appropriate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No state endangered or threatened species were observed at the DPRWDP site before restoration. This is not surprising, given the highly disturbed, degraded quality of the site at that time. Restoration of wetlands has resulted in use of the site by several state endangered species (Fig. 2). Two state endangered species, Least Bittern and Yellow-headed Blackbird, nested on site during both years of post-restoration censusing (Table 1). A single pair of Least Bitterns nested within Wetland #4 in 1990 and 1991. At least four pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested on site in 1990 (two in Wetland #3 and two in Wetland #4), and at least seven pairs nested within DPRWDP during 1991 (one in Wetland #3, four in Wetland #4, and one in Wetland #5).

Least Bittern and Yellow-Headed Blackbird both seem to prefer deep-water marshes that contain sections of open water. In much of our state, agricultural erosion has accelerated the natural aging of marshes making them sufficiently shallow for cattails to replace what used to be open water. This results in a habitat that is less attractive to species such as the Least Bittern and Yellow-

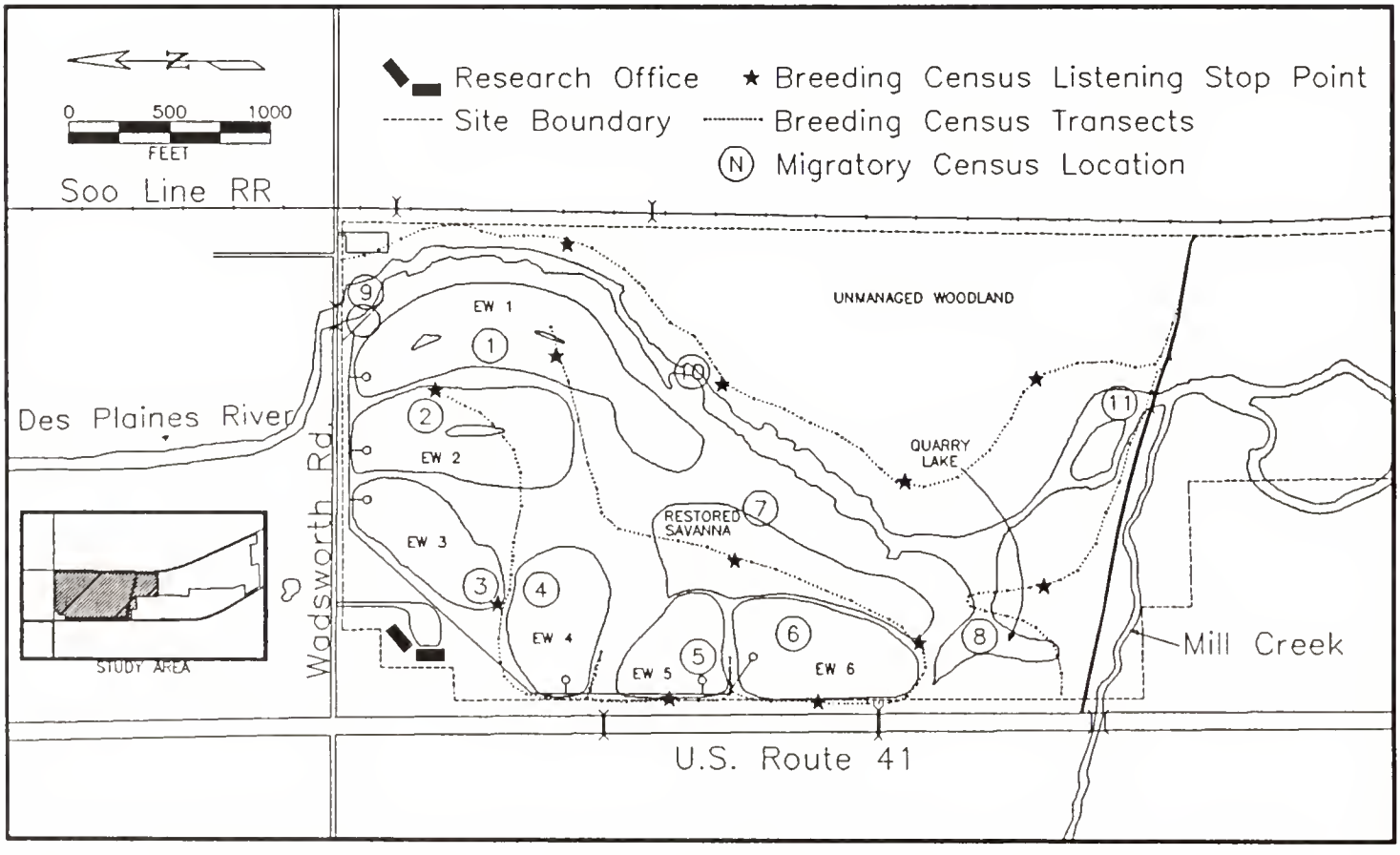


Figure 1. DesPlaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project Site, 1991. EW = experimental wetland.

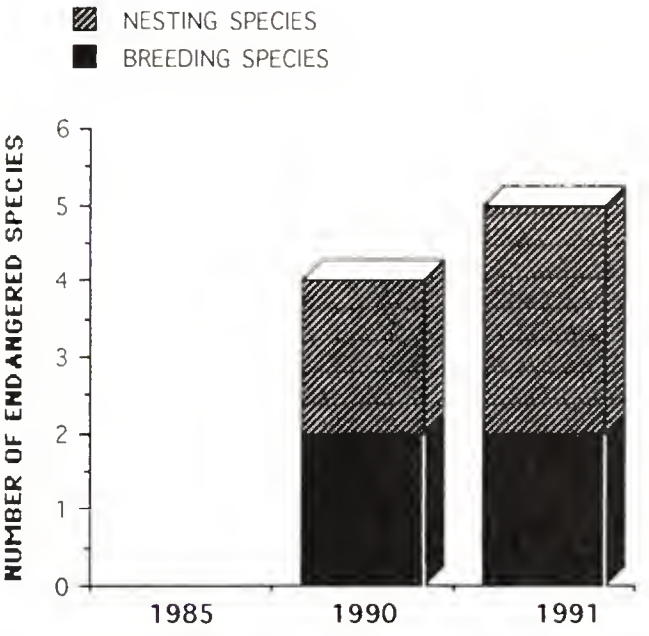


FIGURE 2. NUMBER OF STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES AT DPRWDP DURING THE BREEDING SEASON (1985 IS PRERESTORATION).

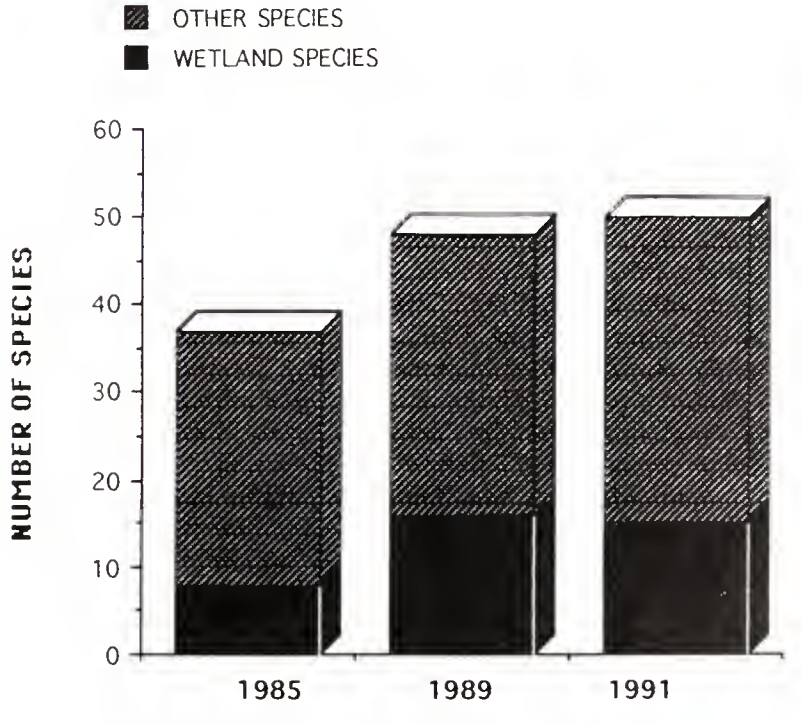


FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF SPECIES BREEDING AT DPRWDP: 1985 VS. 1990 AND 1991.

headed Blackbird. The open water character of the DPRWDP marshes is probably a major reason for their use by Yellowheaded Blackbirds and the Least Bittern.

In addition to these two state endangered species that nest at DPRWDP, three species endangered in Illinois visited the site to rest and/or feed during breeding season post-restoration censuses. A single Pied-billed Grebe was observed in Wetland #4 on June 5 in 1991. Small numbers, one to four individuals of Great Egrets fed and loafed in various wetlands

'It appears that a field of dreams effect exists for wetland birds. If we build wetlands, birds will come.'

throughout the summer months. Two immature Black-crowned Night-Herons on one occasion used the project site during the 1990 and 1991 breeding seasons.

Besides increasing the site's ability to support endangered species, restoration of wetlands has in general increased the site's habitat value for nesting birds. Table 1 indicates the total number of individuals of each species encountered during pre-restoration (1985) and post-restoration (1990 and 1991) breeding bird censuses. Restoration has resulted in an increase of approximately 30 percent in the total number of species nesting at DPRWDP

and in an approximately 100 percent increase in nesting wetland species (Fig. 3).

Even though the wetlands of DPRWDP are man-made, the number of breeding species that they support compares favorably with roughly similarly-sized forest preserves in Lake County that contain naturally occurring marshes. DPRWDP supported 53 species during the breeding season. Grant Preserve contains approximately 52 breeding species and MacDonald Woods Forest Preserve contains approximately 51 breeding species.

It is noteworthy that these successes occurred virtually immediately upon completion of construction of DPRWDP wetlands and that the DPRWDP has supported a diversity of species equal to that of naturally-occurring habitats in the same region within the first year that construction of wetlands was completed.

While it certainly wouldn't be true for all species, it appears that a "field of dreams" effect exists for wetland birds. If we build wetlands, birds will come.

This study documents a significant post-restoration increase in the use of the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project site by breeding birds, including several species that are state-endangered. It is clear that The Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project has greatly improved habitat quality for birds in general, and for wetland birds in particular.

The positive response of birds to DPRWDP indicates that in addition to diligently protecting Illinois' remaining natural wetlands, we should also sup-

TABLE 1. BREEDING SEASON AVIFAUNA OF DPRWDP, 1985, 1990 and 1991

SPECIES	TOTAL NUMBER OF BREEDING PAIRS		
	1985	1990	1991
Pied-billed Grebe +*	0	0	V
Least Bittern +*	0	1	1
Great Blue Heron +	0	0	V
Great Egret +*	0	V	V
Green-backed Heron +	2	1	1
Black-crowned Night Heron +*	0	V	V
Canada Goose +	1	4	8
Mallard +	0	4	5
Blue-winged Teal +	0	2	7
Sora +	0	3	6
American Coot +	0	1	1
Killdeer +	0	4	4
Spotted Sandpiper +	0	13	15
American Woodcock	1	0	0
Mourning Dove	1	1	5
Belted Kingfisher +	1	1	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	0	1	1
Northern Flicker	2	4	3
Eastern Wood Peewee	3	2	2
Willow Flycatcher +	8	3	11
Great-crested Flycatcher	3	1	1
Eastern Kingbird	0	3	3
Blue Jay	4	4	4
American Crow	1	4	4
Black-capped Chickadee	2	5	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0
House Wren	8	3	5
Sedge Wren +	0	0	3
Marsh Wren +	0	11	13
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0	0	1
Wood Thrush	2	3	1
American Robin	13	9	8
Gray Catbird	9	6	7
Brown Thrasher	1	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	4	1	3
European Starling	0	1	2
White-eyed Vireo	1	0	0
Yellow-throated Vireo	0	2	1
Warbling Vireo	2	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	4	3
Yellow Warbler +	3	13	14
Common Yellowthroat +	19	25	22
Scarlet Tanager	0	1	1
Northern Cardinal	9	5	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	1
Indigo Bunting	7	3	6
Rufous-sided Towhee	0	1	0
Savannah Sparrow	0	5	2
Song Sparrow	16	49	49
Swamp Sparrow +	4	2	9
Bobolink	1	0	0
Red-winged Blackbird +	25	93	79
Eastern Meadowlark	3	0	0
Yellow-headed Blackbird +*	0	4	7
Common Grackle	1	9	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	12	20
Northern Oriole	1	2	2
American Goldfinch	8	20	10
House Sparrow	0	1	1

* = State Endangered Species
V = Visitor
+ = Wetland Species

port wetland restoration along our rivers as a means of purifying our waters, controlling flooding and attracting wildlife including the state-endangered Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern and Pied-billed Grebe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Much-appreciated financial support for this research was provided through public and private funds administered by Wetlands Research, Inc. Joel Greenberg, David B. Johnson and Darryl Johnson assisted in the gathering of pre-restoration data (1985). Paul Baker conducted several of the night-time rail censuses. Thanks go to these researchers for their efforts and interest. ■

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Editor's Note: Next issue, we'll look at how the wetlands project has affected migrating birds in the area in part 2 of Dr. Hickman's report.

State First:

Red-breasted Merganser Breeds for the First Time In Illinois

by Sheryl De Vore

Ralph Herbst had been watching the female Red-breasted Merganser *(Mergus serrator)* all summer ever since he spotted her and a male the week of June 7 last year in Cook County. Herbst, president of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club, was doing a breeding bird atlas near ponds behind a sewage treatment plant, of all places, on Pershing and Austin roads in Stickney.

The male merganser disappeared after June 14, but the female remained.

On August 4, Herbst saw the female merganser swimming, then walk off shore to preen. "And much to my amazement, a smaller, chocolate brown duck stumbled out of the water and stood beside her, also preening," recalled Herbst.

At the time Herbst said he didn't realize that his sighting represented the first Illinois record of a breeding Red-breasted Merganser. But he did know it was something special.

Herbst closely observed the duckling noting its yellowish bill, lightly colored legs, and white belly and breast feathers.

Its head and neck still sported downy feathers. The bird had a whitish loral strip and small white spot under the eye.

Herbst submitted documentation to Alan Anderson, vice-president of the Chicago Audubon Society and Cook County compiler for the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas. Herbst recalled he could find no Illinois nesting records of Red-breasted Mergansers in *Birds of Illinois* (Bohlen), *Chicago Area Birds* (Mlodinow) or in Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*.

Red-breasted Mergansers typically nest in the northern portion of North America. Their breeding range usually extends only as far south as northern Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

Anderson wrote to Herbst telling him that according to Vernon M. Kleen of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Herbst's record of the nesting merganser is the first in the state of Illinois for the species. "Your finding will be the highlight of the atlas study in the county," Anderson told Herbst.

'Much to my amazement, a smaller, chocolate brown duck stumbled out of the water and stood beside the female Red-breasted Merganser.'

Five days after his first encounter with the young bird, Herbst saw the mother and young again. "This time the young merganser seemed more independent of mom," said Herbst. "But when alarmed, the bird quickly took to the water and disappeared under the surface."

Later Herbst observed the youngster swimming alone. "He could scoot forward over the surface but could not yet fly," said Herbst.

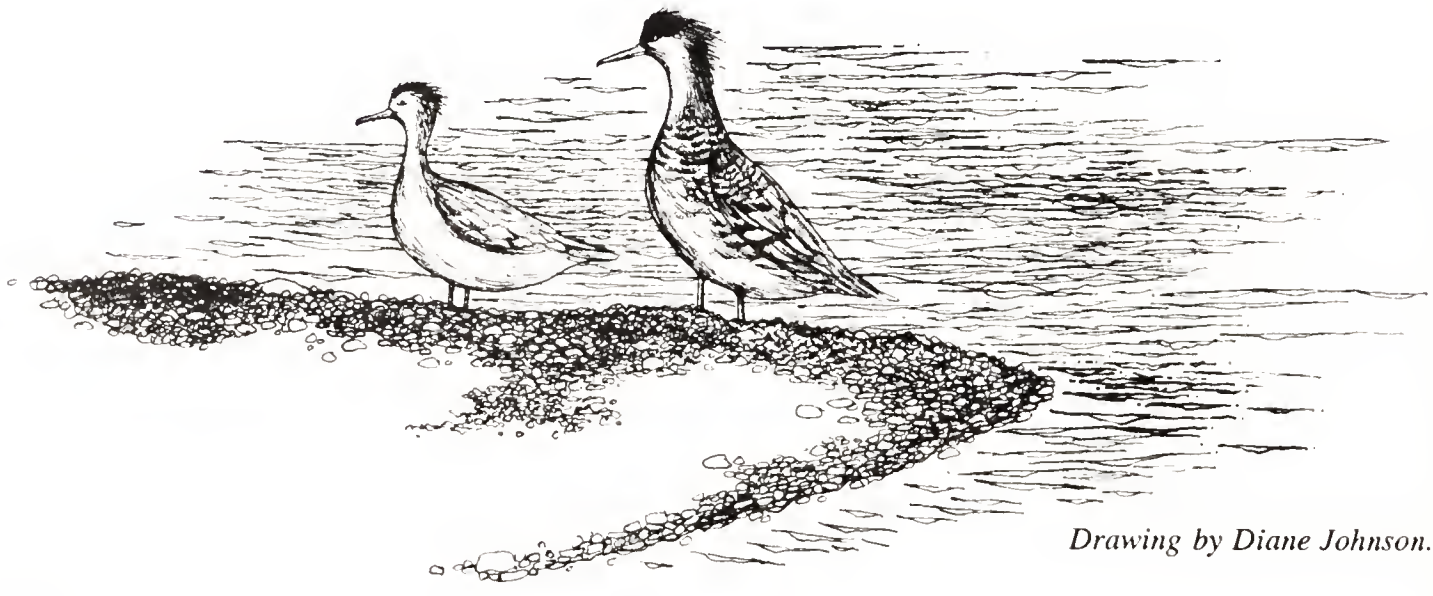
The female and her youngster should have had plenty of food to eat. The pond where they swam contained bass, sunfish and crappie as well as frogs, tadpoles, crayfish, water bugs and pond larvae.

Red-breasted Mergansers typically lay eight to ten eggs. Herbst theorized that the duckling's brothers and sisters may have fallen prey to predators such a coyote which Herbst observed with young nearby.

"I also saw one very large snapping turtle on the north end of the pond," said Herbst. "Pollution in the bottom sludge may have gotten into the fish eaten by the female and reduced the number of eggs laid," he speculated.

Herbst's conclusion: "The young merganser was a true survivor."

"It's great that this record is accepted as a state first," said Herbst. "But the credit goes to the young Red-breasted Merganser for letting me share an all too brief glimpse of his or her early life." ■



Drawing by Diane Johnson.

FEEDER STATION

by Sue Friscia

Why feed birds in the summer? The best answer I've found is the joy watching birds during courtship and nesting brings. These activities produce my favorite backyard visitors: baby birds.

These fluffy little balls have eyes only for their parents; they will plead for food while sitting on a mountain of bird seed. The fledglings' mouths, with their two gorgeous yellow rims, resemble the Grand Canyon.

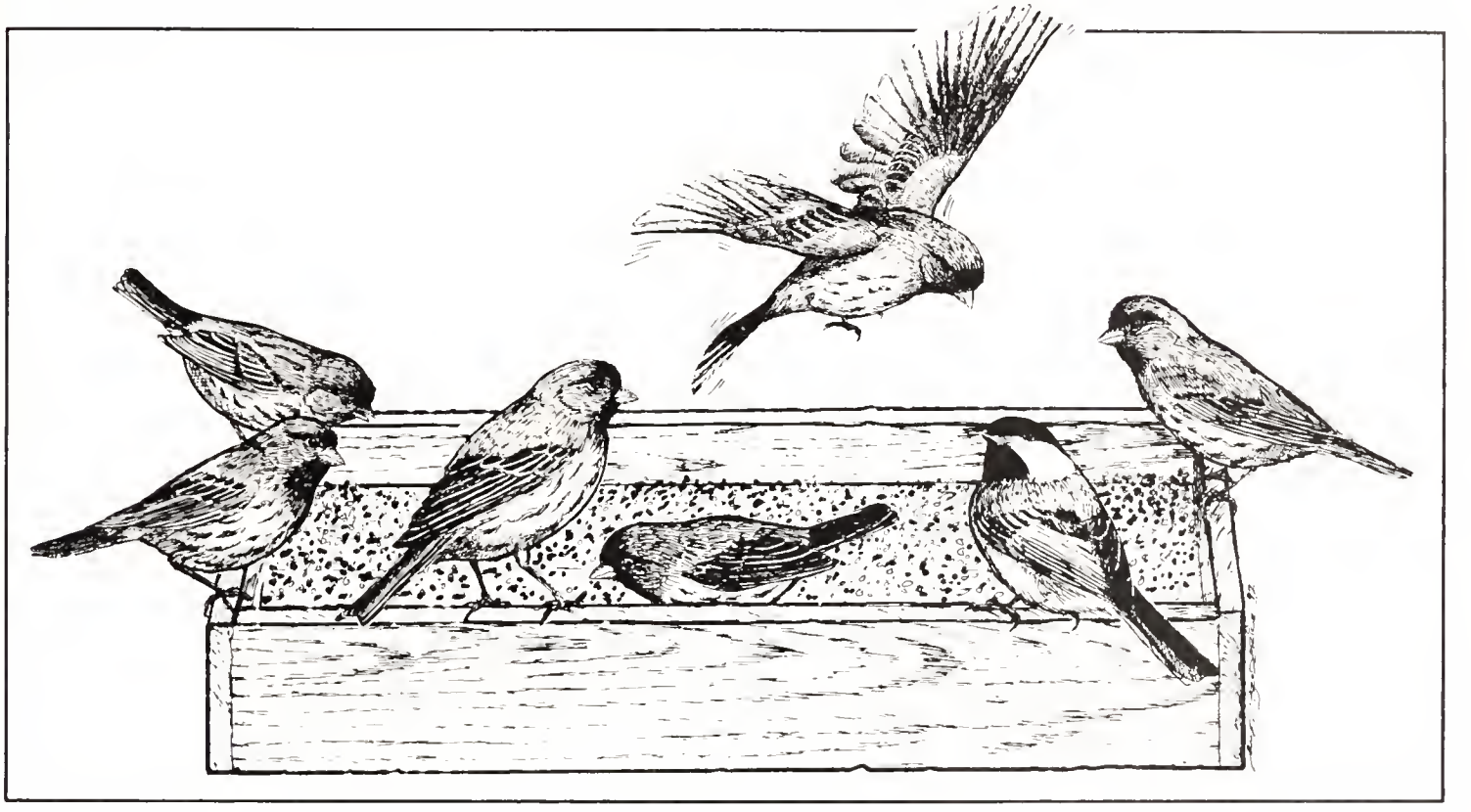
They flutter their wings and peep until Dad or Mom deposits a variety of seeds down their throat. The poor parents are exhausted. If they could only say, "Hey, Junior, will you close your mouth for a minute and just look down? There's a smorgasbord all around you." But do kids ever listen anyway?

For the Northern Cardinal, it starts in late winter when the days start getting longer. The male cardinal fluffs his crest and chest and spreads his tail feathers to look his best. Then he nestles next to a prospective mate and tempts her with freshly shelled sunflower seeds. If she accepts, they begin housekeeping.

The male cardinal is a feeding machine. He will nourish his mate all through incubation and then help feed the nestlings. Soon after the nestlings fledge, the male takes over all the feeding chores, while his mate starts a new brood.

If you provide a supply of sunflower seeds this summer, expect Papa cardinal and his family to visit. The young look just like the female except for their dark beaks. Another clue to identifying young: they are the ones continually harassing their father for food.

The really good chuckles come at my feeder when baby Black-capped Chickadees get lessons in feeding. Throughout the winter, chickadees maintain a pecking order. Watch them and you'll notice that



Drawing by Emmet Broderick.

you'll never see two chickadees at a feeder at the same time. They zoom in and out one at a time, and if you blink, it's likely you'll miss them.

Not so with the fledglings. They are lucky they don't plow into the feeder. They remind me of kids on a slip-and-slide.

Once they discover how to enter the feeder, the youngsters aren't sure which sunflower seed to take or exactly what they are supposed to do with it. It's fun to watch as they learn to hold a seed between their feet and crack it open.

The young chickadees that visit my feeder don bright, crisp feathers and an occasional fluff of lingering down. They shine next to their ragged-looking parents, who have spent months squeezing in and out of nest holes. I don't think I could ever have too many chickadees in my backyard.

Some of the other birds that bring their young to my feeders include: House Sparrow (no surprise there), House Finch, American Robin, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle.

Juvenile Black-capped Chickadees 'remind me of kids on a slip-and-slide.'

During the summer, I use an inexpensive seed mix at platform feeders and on the ground. I maintain my sunflower and niger feeders, too, but the most valuable commodity I provide is water -and lots of it.

I would like to compile a list of all species that visit feeders with their young. I'd also like information on brood size and food preference. I am looking forward to hearing from you about your experiences watching birds at the feeder. ■

Editor's Note:

Sue Friscia, Field Trip Chairman of the Illinois Ornithological Society, serves free food to birds at 10 feeder stations in her backyard. Since she hung her first feeder on a clothesline five years ago, Sue has counted 48 species of birds in her neighborhood and has seen 200 individuals feeding at one time.

Sue welcomes your notes on feeder watching. You can write her at: 3417 West 123rd Street, Alsip, IL 60658.

AVIAN ANNALS

by Eric Walters

These birding experiences were recorded in regional and national publications. They reflect what may have been happening years ago during the breeding season in Illinois.

75 years ago:

One birder found nests from 108 different species within a ten-mile radius of his home in Champaign County.

60 years ago:

A Bald Eagle attacked a heronry in Quincy in late June. With the help of some nearby Red-winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows, the parent Great Blue Herons convinced the eagle to leave without a meal.

35 years ago:

The first organized breeding-bird survey for Illinois was completed. A record number of Mourning Dove nests were found in September.

30 years ago:

Six Wilson's Phalarope nests were discovered at Lake Calumet.

20 years ago:

The first Mississippi Kite nest for the state was found at Kaskaskia State Park. The bird built the nest 15 feet above a picnic table.

10 years ago:

Illinois' first reported House Finch nest was discovered in Robinson. ■

Rend Lake
Shorebirds, Southern Style

by Todd Fink and Judy De Neal

"I have a good feeling today," I announce to Judy De Neal as we drive down Interstate Highway 57 at 10 a.m. on a steamy, sunny, windless September day. We're going to the best place to find shorebirds in southern Illinois - Rend Lake.

"Is it a Curlew Sandpiper kind of a feeling or is it just a Willet kind of a day?" asks Judy, teasing, knowing the Curlew Sandpiper has been seen only once at Rend Lake.

I concede that maybe it will be a Piping Plover kind of a day. Whatever kind of shorebirding day it will be, I can't forget that I've seen 25 species of shorebirds on one day alone in late summer at Rend Lake. So the fact that we have to walk through itchy, prickly agricultural fields and wade across ankle-deep, slippery mud as we sweat from the scorching sun doesn't deter us.

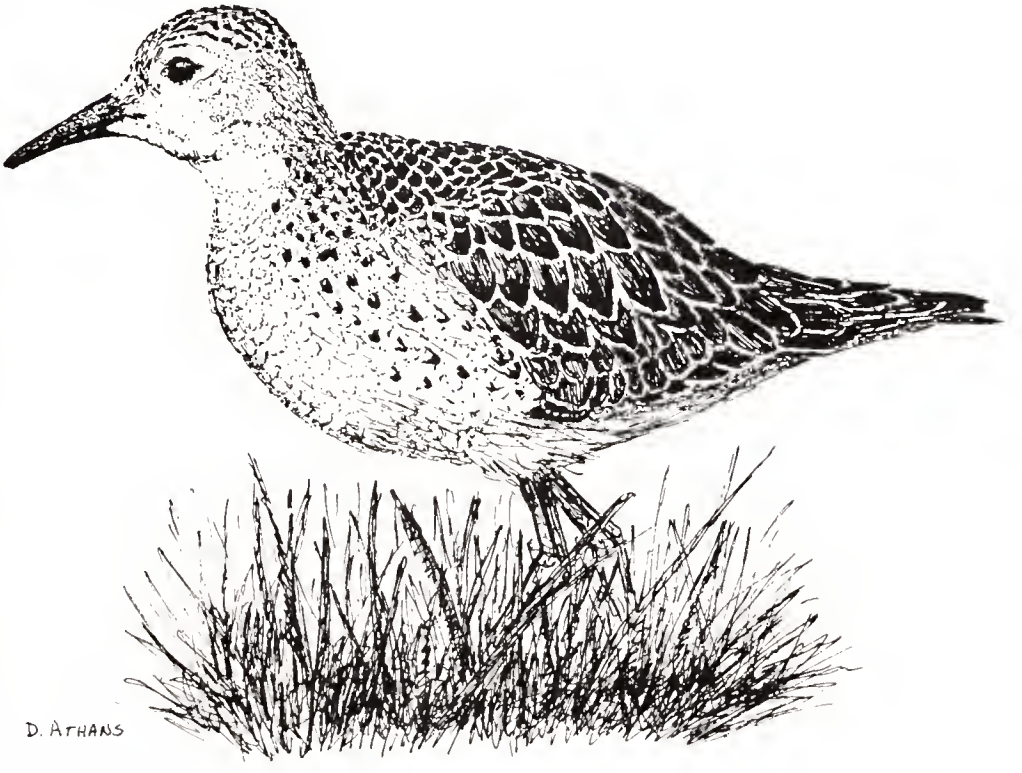
We know the possibilities that exist beyond those obstacles.

Thirty-five species of shorebirds including Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, American Avocet, and Red-necked Phalarope have been sighted at Rend Lake, located off Interstate 57 south of Mt. Vernon in Jefferson and Franklin counties. The only Illinois recorded shorebirds that haven't been seen at Rend Lake are Snowy and Wilson's Plovers, Black-necked Stilt, Eskimo and Long-billed Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Purple Sandpipers, and Ruff.

Needless to say, the area encompassing two counties provides birders a good chance to improve their shorebird identification skills. And you don't have to get up at the break of dawn to see them. When the shorebirds are there, they're there all day.

What makes Rend Lake a mecca for shorebirds? Sheer size, for one thing. The 18,900-acre lake has 162 miles of shoreline and is surrounded by 21,000 acres of public land.

In addition, Rend Lake, created in 1965 by the damming of the Big Muddy River, is on some of the flattest land in



Buff-breasted Sandpipers are regular visitors to Rend Lake. Drawing by David Athans.

Southern Illinois. Not much of a drop in the lake is needed before a huge, wonderful, open area of mud flats is created. In fact, a one inch drop in the water level can expose acres of new flats, prime habitat for shorebirds.

Shorebirding at Rend Lake can be especially exciting in late summer and fall when migrating shorebirds can see the mud flats from a great distance. The migration begins; however, in March with the return of Lesser Golden Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers and, except for a few weeks in June, doesn't end until early December when the last of the Least Sandpipers and Dunlins depart.

'Thirty-five species of shorebirds including Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, American Avocet, and Red-necked Phalarope have been sighted at Rend Lake.'

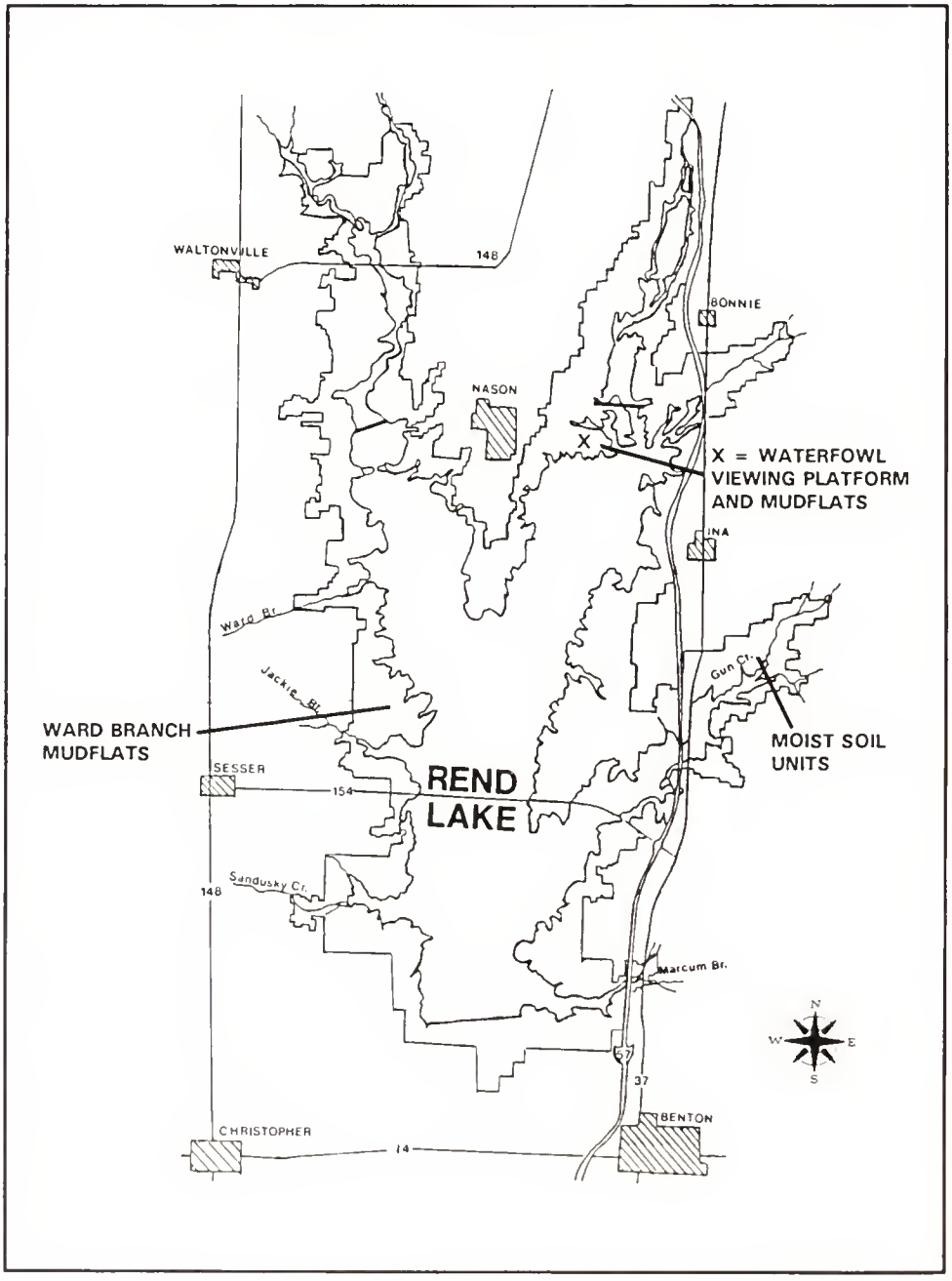
The mud flat habitats can vary with the weather conditions, though, and a promising mud flat can disappear after a period of heavy rain. One summer, five inches of rain fell in the area, hiding the mud flats and thus, greatly lowering the number of shorebirds seen.

The surrounding diverse habitat also attracts shorebirds. Sandy ridges built up along the old meanders of the Big Muddy River have become natural beaches. Occasionally, wind and wind action have shaped long finger-like projections that extend out into the lake. Such an area is Honker's Point, on the west side of the lake. Here, Sanderlings, Red Knots, Piping Plovers, and a variety of gulls and terns come to feed and rest. Old gravel roads marked by orderly rows of tree stumps have become pebble beaches, attracting Ruddy Turnstones that flip over the stones searching for sustenance.

Some parts of the lake with more relief are riprapped with limestone to prevent erosion. Look for Spotted Sandpipers in these areas and someday maybe Purple Sandpipers.

Another man-made niche, rectangular ponds formed by the collapse of long-wall mining under the land surface, seem to be favored by Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers.

Newly created moist-soil units at Gun Creek where water levels can be controlled at certain times of the year hold great promise as habitat for Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary and Pectoral Sand-



pipers, snipes, dowitchers, godwits, and peeps.

Bird watchers could spend an entire day exploring the area, driving and stopping to set up scopes. Probably the best way for the visiting birder to begin is to stop at the Wayne Fitzgerrell Park visitor center off the Sesser exit and get a map.

Judy recalls stopping there on her first visit to the Rend Lake area. A ranger circled places on the map where she should search for specific shorebirds.

One place she visited was the north end of the lake at the goose viewing platform near the entrance to Nason Wildlife Refuge. When the lake level is high, the mud flats are limited, lying almost directly below the viewing platform, bringing the birds closer in view. Not only can you see some nice shorebirds, here, but you may also discover Bald and Golden Eagles, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Ross' Goose, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Greater White-fronted Goose and White Pelican during fall migration.

Both Honker's Point and Ward Branch, another favorite spot, offer habitat far removed from tree lines, wood lots, or other vegetation that can harbor predators. Shorebirds feel safe in these areas because they can easily detect trouble from a great distance.

Ward Branch is reliable annually for such species as Baird's, Buff-breasted and Western Sandpipers; Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones. At Ward Branch, we have also discovered Whimbrel, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Piping Plover, Red Knot, American Avocet and Red-necked Phalaropes.

It is THE place to go in the area each fall to find Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

But you have to pay for your pleasure. In mid-summer to early fall you often have to wade from Ward Branch in mucky mud to get to the island where shorebirds abound. It's slippery although you are never more than ankle-deep in the mud. And you might feel a little woozy as the hot sun creates mesmerizing ripples on the water.

We succeed on that warm September day in remaining in a standing position and entering an area filled with Buff-breasted, Baird's and Western Sandpipers. At the edge of the island, a Sanderling walks as gingerly as we had.

We end the day having seen 23 species of shorebirds. We didn't break any record. We didn't see a Piping Plover. But, we weren't disappointed. You see, we discovered a Red Phalarope, the first record for the lake.

And so, it was a Red Phalarope kind of a day at Rend Lake that September morning. Who knows what kind of a day it will be next time? ■

Editor's Note: To give you a taste of shorebirding Rend Lake, Todd Fink and Judy De Neal will lead an Illinois Ornithological Society-sponsored field trip at Rend Lake on Sunday August 23. To register, contact IOS Field Trip Chair Sue Friscia at (708) 371-2124.

The trip will begin at 8 a.m. at the visitor's center at Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park. For more information on the Rend Lake area, call the park at (618) 629-2320. The Mt. Vernon area has moderately priced motels and hotels. For more information, contact the Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce at (618) 242-5825.

Recognizing Juvenile and Winter Chipping Sparrows

by David B. Johnson

The Illinois birder can easily recognize an alternate (breeding) plumaged Chipping Sparrow *(Spizella passerina)* by its rufous cap, white supercilium (eyebrow), black eye stripe, and dark black bill. Birders can also recognize the bird's grayish unstreaked underparts, cheeks, nape, and rump as well as the thin, elongated body with a long, notched tail and the brown back with prominent wide, darker brown streaks. In addition, birders will notice the two whitish wing bars, connecting brown nape stripe between the back and the crown, and the bird's pinkish legs and feet.

Just as distinctive as the Chipping Sparrow's alternate plumage is the bird's song - a distinctive fast, dry, hard rapid trill. Most beginning birders in Illinois become familiar with this "chippie" trill in their neighborhoods, parks, golf courses, orchards, wood edges, and pine plantations. Birders should be careful; though, not to confuse the highly variable song of the chippie with the similar songs of the Worm-eating Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco.

Once "the trill is gone" and the first brood of juvenile chippies are begging their parents for food, then the birder realizes that these youngsters don't look anything like their parents. My first impression of juvenile Chipping Sparrows from above was that they looked like Brewer's Sparrows, a bird not likely to occur in Illinois. All the fine dark brown streaking through the crown and down the nape along with the lack of any distinct facial patterns certainly can be confusing.

'The birder realizes that these youngsters don't look anything like their parents.'

As illustration 1 shows, the dull black streaking throughout the underparts of a juvenile Chipping Sparrow and the dark eye stripe, though not always distinct, rules out a Brewer's or juvenile Clay-colored Sparrow.

Other features which help to identify a juvenile Chipping Sparrow include the absence of rufous in the crown and the distinctly streaked-appearance of the crown as if someone ran a comb of fine, dark brown streaks over its head.

The young chippie also has a light orange to pink bill, buffy wing bars, long notched tail, and a brown faintly-streaked rump. The cheeks or auricular area are buffy brown punctuated with a complete, though indistinct, brown eye line.

The eyebrow is buffy. Chippie young have rich brown, buffy backs with dark strong streaks throughout. Their legs and feet are pinkish. No distinctive gray nape is apparent in this plumage.

In Illinois, most Chipping Sparrow juveniles will maintain their plumage into late October; therefore, we don't often get to see a first basic (1st winter) or even a definitive basic (winter) chippie in Illinois, unless there are stragglers. Most birds have migrated out of the state by the time those plumages are acquired.

However, if you've ever birded in the southern tier of United States in winter, you can see first basic or definitive basic Chipping Sparrows on their wintering grounds.

A definitive basic plumaged chippie (see illustration 2) exhibits the following characteris-

tics: a pinkish bill with a dark culmen, grayish toned underparts, white wing bars, a darker more pronounced eye line than that of the juvenile, fine dark streaking through the slightly rufous-colored crown, a gray nape, a slightly indistinct malar stripe, a buff to grayish supercilium, and a long notched tail.

The first basic bird is similar to a definitive basic Chipping Sparrow, but has less rufous on the crown. Also, its breast and sides are tinged with a buffy coloration.

Learning the juvenile and basic plumages of the Chipping Sparrow is useful as a basis for comparison with other confusing juvenile and basic *Spizella* Sparrows such as a Clay-colored Sparrow which might occur in Illinois in the fall and can look strikingly similar.

In the next issue of *Meadowlark*, we'll feature illustrations of juvenile and basic Clay-colored Sparrows. Then you'll be able to compare the illustrations and field marks you've learned from the benchmark juvenile to basic Chipping Sparrow plumages.

By all means, take a long hard look at the next juvenile Chipping Sparrow you see and also observe the adults during fall migration to see if any are acquiring their basic winter plumage.

I would like to thank Dr. Laurence C. Binford, Ron Goetz and Dr. Scott Hickman for reviewing a draft of this field identification article. ■

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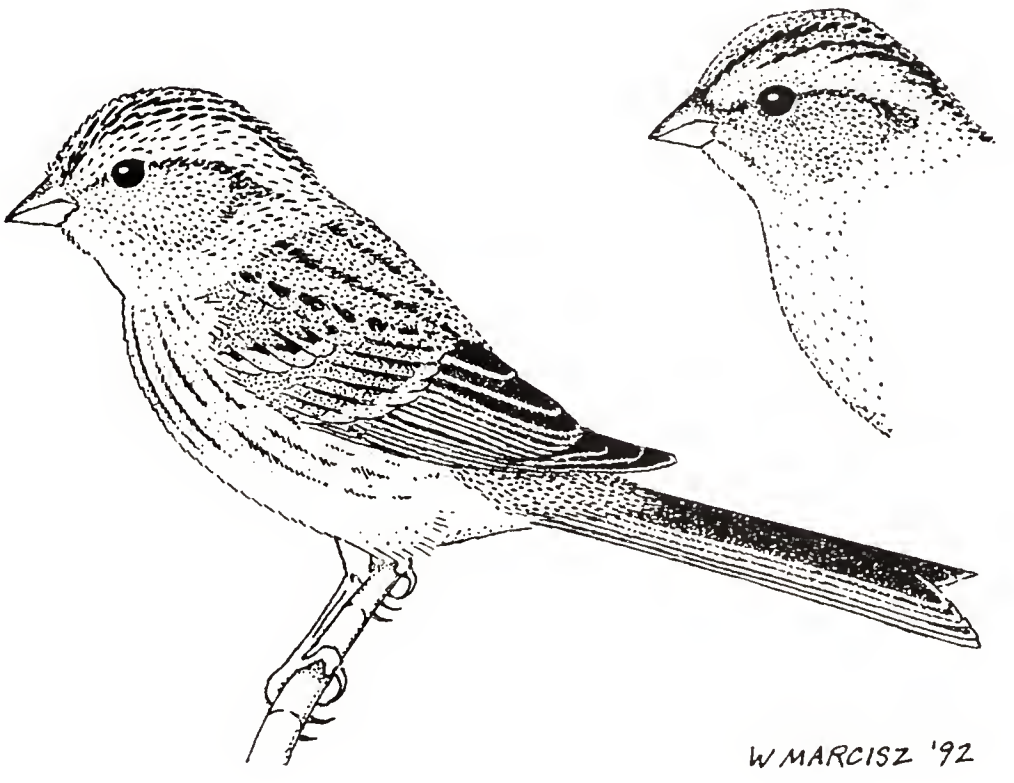
-504 Crown Point Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089



1. Juvenile Chipping Sparrow. 2. (inset) Definitive basic Chipping Sparrow.

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Two New Great Blue Heron Rookeries Discovered in Lake County

Dan Brouillard, conservation supervisor of the Lake County Forest Preserve District mentioned to me during the summer of 1991 that district personnel had discovered a Great Blue Heron nesting Colony near Grayslake on newly acquired district land.

On 1 February 1992 I examined the area and found 24 rather large stick platform nests and a Great Horned Owl nesting in the middle of the empty nests.

A second colony near Mill Creek on private property was discovered during the 1990 and 1991 breeding seasons. I saw six to eight nests in that colony from a road on 10 April 1992. An aerial survey might reveal more nests in that colony.

-- David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Great Egret Nests In Du Page County

While Great Egrets were observed earlier at Frontenac Marsh in southwest Du Page County, it was not until 2 June 1991 that I saw two birds carrying nest materials.

By the 8th, two birds were sitting on nests and later yet in the month a third adult was found here on a nest.

The first young bird was seen in a nest on 14 July. By the 21st, two nests contained at least one young.

Despite many visits through mid-September, no egrets were observed here after the 21st leading me to speculate that something unfortunate may have happened to these birds and their nesting attempt.

This is the first published nest record of the Great Egret for this county.

-- Alan Stokie, 174 East Kathleen Drive, Park Ridge, IL 60068

Cattle Egret Nests in Du Page County

On 10 July 1991, I observed a single, fresh juvenile Cattle Egret just out of the nest and unable to fly well at Frontenac Marsh in southwest Du Page County. I also discovered a separate family group of three young being attended by an adult.

Other observers include Wes Serafin and Sue Friscia.

We stood within 10 feet of the juvenile, which could fly awkwardly for short distances. Its plumage, including the wing tips, was pure white. The bill and legs were still quite gray.

This juvenile and the family group suggest at least two successful nests. The observation marks the first published nesting record for this species in this county and the second published nesting location found in northeastern Illinois.

-- Walter Marcisz, 12820 Wood St., Apt #1D, Blue Island, IL 60406

Black-crowned Night Herons Nest in Du Page County

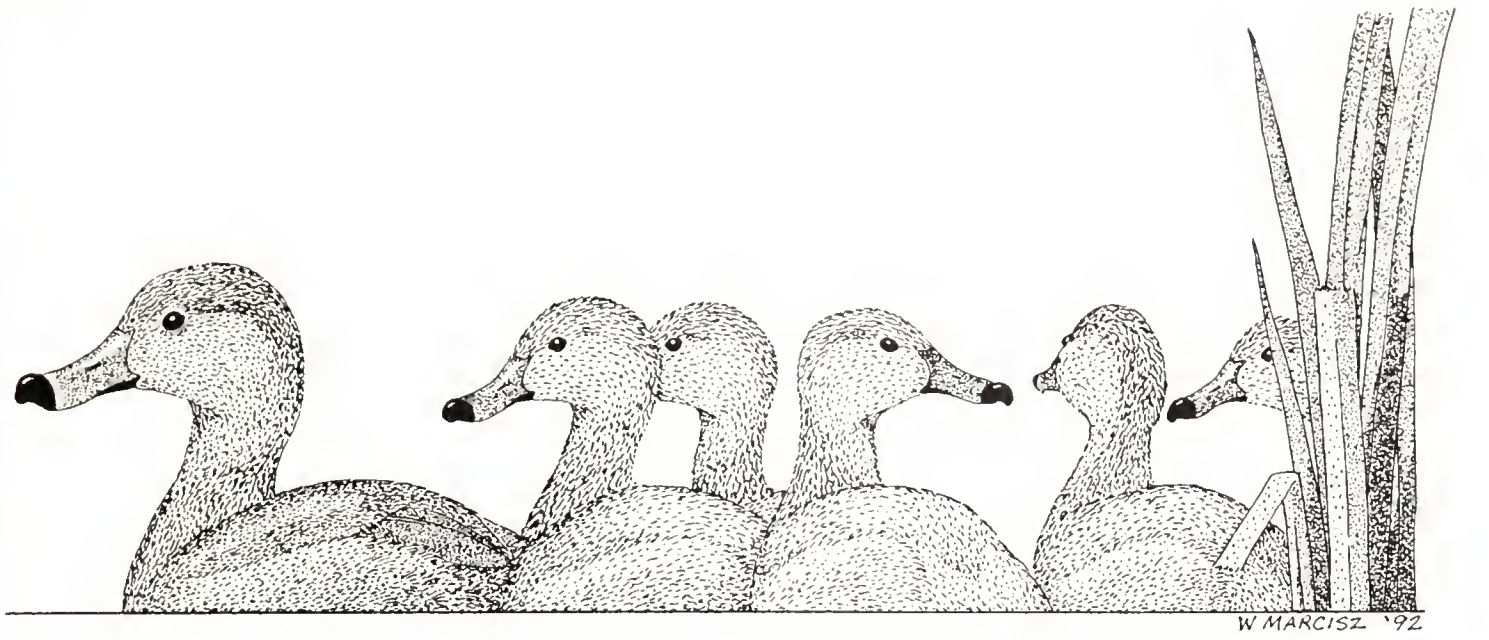
An adult carrying sticks into Frontenac Marsh was observed on 10 June, 1990 by Mike Madsen. I observed an adult on a nest on the 16th.

Breeding success of this individual nest was not determined, but juveniles were present later in the season, marking the first published confirmed nesting in Du Page for this species.

At this same location at the end of June 1991, I counted five nests with brooding adults. Some juveniles fledged and used this small marsh for their feeding area.

Later in the season, Peter Kasper found another nest at nearby Fermi Lab. This breeding expansion into Du Page may represent an overflow of adults that couldn't find room for breeding at the currently heavily populated traditional northeastern Illinois nest sites.

-- Eric Walters, 720 Reba Place, Evanston, IL 60202



Female Redhead with brood of young at Lake Calumet's Hegewisch Marsh. Drawing by Walter Marcisz.

Confirmed Breeding of Northern Shoveler In Grundy County

On 13 June 1991, I observed a female shoveler with six young in a half-acre, knee-deep pond just west of the railroad tracks in the center of Goose Lake Prairie State Park.

The unique flattened bill of the female made for easy identification of this species. The young were about a third her size.

I found no male during four summer survey trips.

Shovelers were recorded here during mid-June of 1973, but this is the first published confirmed nesting for this site and the first published record of nesting shovelers in Illinois in 18 years.

--Jim Herkert, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, 524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701

Northern Shoveler Breeds In Northeastern Illinois

While at McKee Marsh in Du Page County, on 5 July 1991, I noticed a female shoveler being followed by a brood of nine young. The young were nearly three-fourths her size.

The flattened long bill separated this female from the similar looking female Mallards nearby. The female shoveler also lacked the black on bill and the dark crown typically seen in Mallards.

A male shoveler noted by Patty Christiansen in the area through mid June probably was the mate.

-- Eric Walters, 720 Reba Place, Evanston, IL 60202

Redhead Brood In Northeastern Illinois

I observed an adult female Redhead with a brood of six young on 11 July 1991 at Hegewisch Marsh just south of Lake Calumet. The young, about three-fourths the size of the adult, swam in a tightly formed group and appeared not yet fledged.

The rounded head, uniform warm medium-brown plumage, gray speculum and gray bill broadly tipped with black were all noted on the adult.

In mid-August, Peg Walsh observed four young Redheads at the same location.

There are at least six nesting records prior to this observation for this species in Illinois - all in the northeastern section. This is Illinois' first reported nesting since 1979.

-- Walter Marcisz, 12820 Wood St., Apt. #1D, Blue Island, IL 60406

State's Only Colony of Nesting Forster's Tern

I discovered approximately 35 Forster's Tern nests during June 1991 at the Chain o' Lakes State Park. This extraordinary number of nestings

far exceeds any other reported colony sizes in Illinois history. In addition, I found a lone Black Tern nest in the colony.

During 1990, I observed about 10 nests at the same site.

Several observers noted foraging Forster's Terns throughout Lake County carrying food for young during the 1991 summer breeding season, sometimes as far as four miles away from the colony.

-- Randy Heidorn, 110 James Road, Spring Grove, IL 60081

Western Meadowlark Sings All Summer In Lake County

While observing fledgling Eastern Kingbirds begging for food on a country road on 3 July 1991 near Round Lake, I heard the unmistakable song of the Western Meadowlark. The bird was singing in a fenced-in fallow field behind a home. Nearby was a pond, corn fields and overgrown hedges.

The bird preferred perching on a tree in the middle of the field where it sang. A birding companion as well as an area ornithologist confirmed the Western Meadowlark later that week. The woman who lived in a house north of the field said she had heard the bird singing for at least a month.

The Western Meadowlark seemed to have defined his own territory adjacent to a field where Eastern Meadowlarks were seen and heard.

I visited the site at least once a week and continued hearing the Western Meadowlark song through the beginning of August.

On 17 July, I observed 10 juvenile meadowlarks. Since separating juvenile easterns from westerns is extremely difficult, I can only guess that easterns successfully nested there and the western sang all summer without finding a mate. Roger Tory Peterson notes in his field guide that the Western Meadowlark is spreading eastward, but sparsely.

-- Sheryl De Vore, 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, IL 60060

Nest Building By Red Crossbills

While birding in the 80-year-old Austrian and Scotch pine plantations at the south end of Illinois Beach State Park on 7 April 1991, I heard a male Red Crossbill giving its recognizable "kip, kip, kip, kip" call. I soon located a female carrying a small stick into one of the pines.

The female then flew to a different pine and broke a small stick from a branch and returned to the original pine. She repeated the action several times. The male, which sported a brick red color and had distinctly crossed mandibles, escorted the female from tree to tree calling.

The female had placed the nest 25 feet high into the crotch of a pine tree. The pair communicated constantly as the male picked out dead branches twig by twig and delivered them to the female who placed the twig in the nest.

The female was greenish yellow with crossed mandibles. Neither bird had wing bars.

I did not return to this site and other observers were not able to locate any crossbills here after mid April.

Red Crossbills have nested here during 1973 when adults and immatures were noted in June and July.

-- Andrew Sigler, 1050 Columbia, Apt. 4C, Chicago, IL 60626

Editor's Note: Brief accounts of observations of interesting bird behavior, nestings and rare sightings may be sent to: Seasonal Highlights Editor, David B. Johnson, 504 Crown Point Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Field Notes

1991 BREEDING SEASON

by Vernon M. Kleen

Illinois birders worked diligently during the 1991 Breeding Season covering nearly all of the 64 Breeding Bird Survey routes and completing the remainder of the Breeding Bird Atlas field work. Birders scouted fields, wetlands, and woods in seven block-busting weekends to gather data, making interesting discoveries along the way.

For the month of June, temperatures averaged about 3.5 degrees above normal and precipitation was about 2.4 inches below normal; for July, temperatures averaged only 1.1 degrees above normal and precipitation was 1.6 inches below normal. As in a number of recent years, this also was a very dry summer.

Highlights of the season include the following: Illinois' first Red-breasted Merganser breeding record; a Pacific Loon in Lake County; increasing numbers of nesting Double-crested Cormorants; the discovery of new (often small) nesting colonies of herons; broods of several unusual duck species; more than the usual number of young rails and cranes; an assortment of wrens, vireos, warblers, thrushes and sparrows; and a nesting Red Crossbill. The most significant details of most species appear in the following species accounts.

As usual, this compilation would not be possible without the continued dedication and support of so many Illinois birders. Information from the Breeding Bird Survey, Breeding Bird Atlas Project, various Nongame Checkoff Projects, and individual projects of several observers has added significantly to the increasing distributional knowledge of Illinois breeding species.

Many thanks to all persons who continue to gather this information, and, to the persons listed below who made direct or indirect contributions to this compilation. The persons responsible for the records in the accompanying species accounts are acknowledged individually after their records. Considerable effort was made to be sure that all information is correct.

Contributing observers were: Cindy Alberico, Alan Anderson, Doug Anderson, Bill Bertrand, Carl Becker, Dave Bohlen, Elaine Burstatte, John Brandt (JBr), Richard Biss (RB), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), David Cederstrom (DCe), Elizabeth Chato, Karin Cassel, Marscha Chenoweth (MCh), Robert Chapel (RC), Roger Coons (RCo), Aura Duke, Danny Diaz (DDz), Judy DeNeal (JDe), Larry David, Myrna Deaton, Peter Dring, Sheryl De Vore (SD); Walt Dembos, Sue Elston, Phyllis Flattery, Sue Friscia, Todd Fink, Bill Glass, Ann Haverstock, Barrie Hunt, Fran Harty, Jim Herkert (JHe), Jim Hart (JHt), Kanae Hirabayashi (KHi), Robert Hughes (RH), Ralph Herbst (RHb), Randy Heidorn (RHe), Rich Hugel (RHu), Dave Johnson, Jack Keegan, Rose Kirwan (RK); Vernon Kleen, James Landing, David Mandell (DMa), Joe Milosevich, Walter Marcisz, Jim Neal, John Purcell (JPu), Norris Price, Richard Palmer, Sebastian

FIELD NOTES HEADING: Blue-winged Warbler at nest. Drawing by Leslie A. DeCourcey.

Patti, Harriet Rylaarsdam, Andy Sigler (AS), Al Stokie (ASt), Jim Smith (JS), Jerry Sullivan (JSu), Todd Strole (TSt), Wes Serafin, Linda Vance, Charles Wescott (CW), Cindy Watkins (CWa), Eric Walters, Peg Walsh (PWa).

As expected from all observers, regardless of experience, unusual observations must be fully documented; the more documentations for each pertinent record, the higher rating it will receive from the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (I.O.R.C.). Observers should, as much as possible, prepare the documentations in the field at the time they are observing the bird(s).

Photographs are better than written documents, provided birds are not unduly disturbed. Unless the photograph is available for immediate review, and without doubt identifies the bird that is being documented, a documentation form should still be completed at the time of observation.

Only three observers submitted photographs along with their breeding season reports this year. I.O.R.C. has developed a documentary photo library and maintains the documentary photos in archival folders at the Natural Heritage Division of the Department of Conservation for the permanent record. It is hoped that all documentary photos submitted as part of any seasonal report will be added to Illinois' permanent archives for appropriate access by all future researchers.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

Carl.L	=	Carlyle Lake (Clinton Cty)
Carb	=	Carbondale (Jackson Cty)
Chi	=	Chicago's lakefront parks (excluding JP)
Clin.L	=	Clinton Lake (De Witt Cty)
COLSP	=	Chain O' Lakes S.P. (Lake Cty)
DPCA	=	Des Plaines C.A. (Will Cty)
Fermi	=	Fermilab at Batavia (Du Page Cty)
GLPSP	=	Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Cty)
GLNTC	=	Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Cty)
HL	=	Horseshoe Lake (Madison Cty)
HLCA	=	Horseshoe Lake C.A. (Alexander Cty)
IBSP	=	Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Cty)
JP	=	Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Cty)
LCal	=	Lake Calumet (Cook Cty)
LChau	=	Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. (Mason Cty)
LRen	=	Lake Renwick (Will Cty)
LRSHNC	=	Little Red Schoolhouse N.C. (Cook Cty)
LShel	=	Lake Shelbyville (Shelby Cty)
M.Arb	=	Morton Arboretum (Du Page Cty)
MM	=	McKee Marsh (Du Page Cty)
MS	=	McGinnis Slough (Cook Cty)
Rend L	=	Rend Lake (Franklin Cty)
RLCA	=	Rice Lake Conservation Area (Fulton Cty)
SLSP	=	Sangchris Lake State Park (Sangamon Cty)
Spfld	=	Springfield (Sangamon Cty)
SRSF	=	Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Cty)
UCCA	=	Union Cty C.A. (Union Cty)
Wauk	=	Waukegan (Lake Cty)

ad.	=	adult
C.A.	=	Conservation Area
subad.	=	subadult
F.P.	=	Forest Preserve
imm.	=	immature
F.W.A.	=	Fish & Wildlife Area
yg.	=	young
L	=	Lake
pr.	=	pair
N.C.	=	Nature Center
*	=	documented record
N.P.	=	Nature Preserve
**	=	specimen record
N.W.R.	=	Nat'l Wildl Refuge
resp.	=	respectively
S.F.	=	State Forest
m.ob.	=	many observers
S.P.	=	State Park
est.	=	estimate(d)
et al.	=	and others present
Co.	=	County
M.C.	=	Maximum Count(s)
juv.	=	juvenile

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds.

PACIFIC LOON
L Villa (n.w. Lake Co.) (subad.), 21-30 June (*DJ, m.ob.--photos, video). First IL summer record.

Common Loon
Mundelein's Diamond Lake (Lake Co.), 4 July-early Oct. (DJ, mob); 18 June, Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (ASt); LCal, 6 June (fide AA) - molting from breeding plumage.

Pied-billed Grebe
Nests: Lockport (female incubating), 24 Apr., and, (3 eggs), 10 June (JM); E. Chicago Heights, 15 June (AA). **Broods**: 3 (11, 1 & 2 yg.), LCo (3 locations), in July (DJ); 2 (9 & 4 yg.), Riverdale (Cook Co.), 24 May-7 July (WM); 5 (2-6 yg. each), LCal, 6 June-6 July (WM, AA, m.ob.); 3, Crabtree N.C., 31 May-15 June (fide AA); 2, MS, 20 June (WS); 2, (3 & 1 yg), MM, 10 July (EW); 2 (2 & 2 yg.), Egger's Woods (Cook Co.), 15-23 June (WM et al.); Chi's Washington Park (3 yg.), 14 June (AA); Country Club Hills (1 yg.), 15 June (AA); 2 (4 yg. each), Chicago Heights, 12 June (AA); 1 (3 yg.), n.e. Grundy Co., 19 June (BG, FH); (3 yg.), Itasca, 31 July (EW); 1 (2 yg.), Channahon, 10 July (JM); 2 (3 & 2 yg.), DPCA, 15 June & 17 July, resp. (JM). **Others**: 5, JP, 28 July (HR); Ads. present at Braidwood, GLPSP, Waterfall Glen F.P. (Du Page Co.), Green River CA, Bartlett and Beardstown during the season.

Double-crested Cormorant
Colonies: Elk River Slough (Iowa) (formerly Thompson, IL colony) (@200 nests), 5 June (VK); LRen (111 nests), 22 Apr. (JM); Fulton County (73 nests), 14 July (RC); Carl.L (25+ nests), 4 June (VK); Thompson (3 nests on dead snag), 5 June (VK); Spring L Wildlife Area. (Carroll Co.) (2 nests on dead snag), 5 June (VK). **M.C.**: 240 (ad and imm), LRen, 11 July (JM); 92, MS, 8 July (WS); 50+ (ad.), Sanganois C.A., 5 June (VK); 9, Saganashkee Slough, 17 June (EW); 5, JP, 14 June (KC). **Others**: n.e. Grundy Co. (ad.), 19 June (BG, FH); Spfld: 1 June (2), 17 June (1) & 5 July (1) (DB). Increasing numbers observed.

American Bittern
MM (1-2 ads.), 16 June-31 July (m.ob.); GLPSP, early June- 18 July+ (up to 2 ads.) (JHe, EW, m.ob.); JP (3), 31 July (HR).

Least Bittern
Nests: 2 (5 eggs each), Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.), 5 June (WM) - one failed; Mermet L (5 eggs), in June and (5 yg), 20 July (TF); MM (used-- ad. & 2 yg. nearby), 12 July (EW). **Others**: Beardstown (3), 8 July (TSt et al.); Spfld, 2 June (DB); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.), all June (EW, m.ob.).

Great Blue Heron
Colonies: Aerial estimates of the number of nests (VK) in the colonies along the Mississippi River, 4-5 June: East Dubuque (500), Andalusia (300), Blanchard Island (150), Bogus Island (250), New Boston (NONE), Campbell Island (150), Otter Island (160), Lomax (200), Eagle Island (60), Hackley Island (175), Barnes Island (newly dis-

Pacific Loon at Sun Lake, Lake Villa (Lake Co.), 24 June 1991. First summer record for Illinois. Photo by David B. Johnson.

Subadult Common Loon at Diamond Lake, Mundelein (Lake Co.), 31 July 1991. Compare bill length, head shape and overall patterning to previous photo. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

covered colony--90), Armstrong Island (350), Denmark Island (200), Clarksville Island (250), Red's Landing (200), Hat Island (200), Island 525 (400), Beagles Island (375). Aerial estimates of the number of nests (VK) in the colonies along the Illinois River and in southern Illinois, 4-5 June: Depue (550), Marshall County (300), Matanza (425), Meredosia (100), Carlyle Lake (150), Rend Lake (450), Harrisburg (20), Reevesville (120), Black Bottoms (200), Little Black Slough (500), HLCA (25), UCCA (50). Others: Clear Lake (Mason Co.) (564 nests), 19 June (RBj et al); LRen (373 nests), 10 Apr. (JM); Worley Lake (Tazewell Co.) (212 nests), 22 June (RBj); Clark Co. (new location--5 nests), March thru July (MD); Coles Co. (14 pr--abandoned) (BH); Grayslake (24), June/July (DJ); Millburn (Lake Co.) (8+), June/July (DJ).

Great Egret

Colonies: Aerial estimates of the number of nests (VK) in the colonies along the Mississippi River, 4-5 June; East Dubuque (50), Andalusia (50), Blanchard Island (10), Bogus Island (50), New Boston (NONE), Otter Island (40), Lomax (50), Eagle Island (15), Hackley Island (50), Barnes Island (30), Armstrong Island (100), Denmark Island (50), Clarksville Island (50), Red's Landing (75), Hat Island (150), Island 525 (100), Beagles Island (25). Aerial estimates of the number of nests (VK) in the colonies along the Illinois River and in southern Illinois, 4-5 June by (VK): Depue (50), Marshall County (+?), Matanza (75), Meredosia (25), Little Black Slough (25); Alorton (many), Pontoon Beach (104). Others: LRen (234 nests), 26 Apr. (JM); Clear Lake (Mason Co.) (92), 19 June (RBj et al); Worley Lake (Tazewell Co.) (19 nests), 22 June (RBj); Riverdale (4 nests), 24 May-7 June (WM); LCal (4 nests), late July (WM et al.); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (3 nests) 17 June thru 13 July (ASt, m.ob.) - 1st Co. nesting record; Fermi (1 nest), late June (fide EW). **M.C.:** 424 (ad. and imm.), LRen, 11 July (JM); 100, MS, 27 July (WS); 30 (foraging), GLPSP, in July (JHe). **Others:** Clin.L (2), 16 June (MD); Beardstown, 8 July (TSt et al.).

Snowy Egret

LCal, 6 June (WM) and perhaps same bird at Riverdale (Cook Co.) (ad.), 7 June (WM); DPCA (ad.), 15 June (JM); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (ad), 17 June-8 July (ASt, PWa, mob); LCal, 22 July (WS, SF et al.).

Little Blue Heron

Colonies: Pontoon Beach (@ 75 nests), 31 May (K et al.); Alorton (+ nests), 31 May (K et al.). **Others:** Spfld (ad.), 1 June & (subad.), 14 June (DB). Postbreeding wanderer: 12 July (imm), n.w. Du Page Co. (EW); 22 July (3 imm.), LCal (WS, SF et al.).

Least Bittern nest and eggs at Powderhorn Marsh, Chicago (Cook. Co.). 5 June 1991. Photo by Walter Marcisz.

Cattle Egret

Colonies: Pontoon Beach (@ 50 nests), 31 May (K et al); Alorton (+ nests), 31 May (K et al.); LRen (5 nests), 11 July (JM). **Young:** 4 (1 & 3, from separate nests), Frontenac Marsh (sw Du Page Co.), 10 July (WM et al.)--1st nesting record for Du Page Co.

Green-backed Heron

Nests: 4 (1-4 eggs noted), Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.), 5-23 June (WM); JP, all season (HR); LRen (5 eggs), 30 May (JM); Fairmount (3

Adult Mute Swan with two cygnets at Monee on 1 July 1991. First breeding record for Will County. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

fledged yg.), in July (JS). **M.C.**: 30, w. Will Co. (15 locations), June/July (JM); 7, Crete (Will Co.), 17-18 June (AD). **Young**: LCal, 7 July (1st fledgling) (JL); MM (3), 10 July (EW). **Others**: Beardstown (2), 8 July (TSt et al.)

Black-crowned Night-Heron
Colonies: LCal area (724+ nests), 20 May-7 June (SEl, WM, AA et al.); Pontoon Beach (587 nests--down from 820 last year), 31 May (K et al.); Clear Lake (Mason Co.) (36 nests), 19 June (RBj et al.); Worley Lake (Tazewell Co.) (187 nests), 22 June (RBj); Alorton (+ nests--large colony that is impossible to count without serious disturbance), 31 May (K et al.); LRen (33 nests--two locations), 30 May--this colony in serious trouble in 1991 (JM); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (5+ nests), all June (mob). **Others**: 115+ (fresh juvs), LCal, 6 July (WM, AA); JP (up to 4), all season (HR); ne Grundy Co. (4 ad. feeding), 19 June (BG, FH); Spfld (8-9), all season (DB). First postbreeding wanderer: 5 July (subad.), Evanston (EW).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nest: Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.), 21 Apr. (WM, AA et al.) - 2 yg. in nest by 5 June, empty nest by 29 June; n.e. Du Page Co. (2) in May (fide EW); Busse Woods FP (Cook Co.) (nest building), in May (fide AA); near LCal, 18 May (WM) - fresh juv probably from this nest seen in marsh near LCal on 7 July (WM, WS, SF). **Others**: Lockport (ad, 2 ad), 1 & 8 July, resp. (JM); JP, 7 & 31 July (KC); N. Chicago (ad.), 28 July (DJ); Libertyville (juv.), 13 July (DJ). First postbreeding wanderer: 25 June (juv.), Frontenac Marsh (sw Du Page Co.) (EW).

Mute Swan
Chi's Wolf L (38 including yg.), 4 May (JBr); Monee (Will Co.) (pr. w/ 2 yg.), 2 June-30 July (AD)--1st Co. breeding record; Chi (3), 15 June (JL); LCal (2), 14 June (AA); Baker's L (Cook Co.) (4--2 yg), 15 July (AA); Northbrook (ad. with 2 yg.), in Aug. (fide AA); Des Plaines (pr. with 2 yg.), in June (fide AA); Itasca, summered (EW).

Canada Goose
Nests: Lockport (eggs), 27 May (JM); JP (several, + 30 non-breeding ads.), all season (HR). **Broods**: 40 (217 yg.), w Will Co., May thru July (JM); 8 (2-11 yg each), LCal, 12 May-14 June (WM, AA). **MC**: 150, LRSHNC, 4 May (PD); 120, Schaumberg, 8 June (AA).

Wood Duck
Nests: JP (HR). **Broods**: 6, Beardstown, 8 July (TSt et al.); Crete (Will Co.) (5 yg), 17 July (AD). **M.C.**: 400, MS, 31 July (WS); 75, LRSHNC, 4

May (PD); 73 (ad. & yg.), DPCA, 15 June (JM).

Green-winged Teal
LCal (7--4 males, 3 females), 28 June (EW), but, (4--3 males, 1 female) there, prior to June 28 and up to 6 July (EW); Spfld (male), 1 June & 7 July (DB); Buckhart (Sangamon Co.) (female), 6 June (DB); GLPSP (male), 14 June (JHe); Charleston (male), 27 July (1st Coles Co. July record) (BH).

Mallard
Nests: Powderhorn Marsh, 8 June (WM). **Broods:** 11 (1-9 yg.), LCal, 12 May-11 July (WM).

Northern Pintail
GLPSP (male), 14 June (JHe).

Blue-winged Teal
Nest: LCal (11 eggs), 16 June (WM et al.). **Broods:** 4 (8-12 yg./brood), MM, 12 July (EW); 4, GLPSP, early July (JHe); 1 (11 yg.), LCal, 23 June (WM); 1 (7 yg.), Burnham Prairie, 23 June (WM); DPCA (2 yg.), 17 July (JM); nw Coles Co. (3 yg.--1st Co. nesting record), 25 July (BH). **Others:** 6, Beardstown, 8 July (TSt et al.); 5, JP, 17 June (HR); Decatur (pr.), 6 July (MD); Plainfield (male), 1 June (JM); Lockport (male), 12 June (JM).

NORTHERN SHOVELER
Broods: GLPSP (female w/ 6 yg.), 13 June (JHe); MM (female w/ 9 yg.), 5 July (EW). **Others:** LCal (female), 7 July but 2 females there 14 July (WM, m.ob.).

Gadwall
LCal (2 ads.), 23 June (WM) but only one present on 29 June.

American Wigeon
Spfld (male), 1 June (DB).

Redhead
Broods: LCal (female w/ 6 yg.), 11 July (*WM) - 4 yg. still present in mid-Aug. (PWa).

Ring-necked Duck
Buckhart (Sangamon Co.) (male), 6 & 11 June (DB); Riverdale (Cook Co.) (male), 7 & 22 June (WM); Beardstown (male), 18 June (CB); LCal (male), 23 June-21 July (WM, EW, m.ob.).

Lesser Scaup
Joliet (2 males, 1 male), 7 & 18 June, resp. (JM).

Bufflehead
Braidwood (male), 17 June (JM).

Common Goldeneye
Spfld (subad. male), 9 & 16 June (DB).

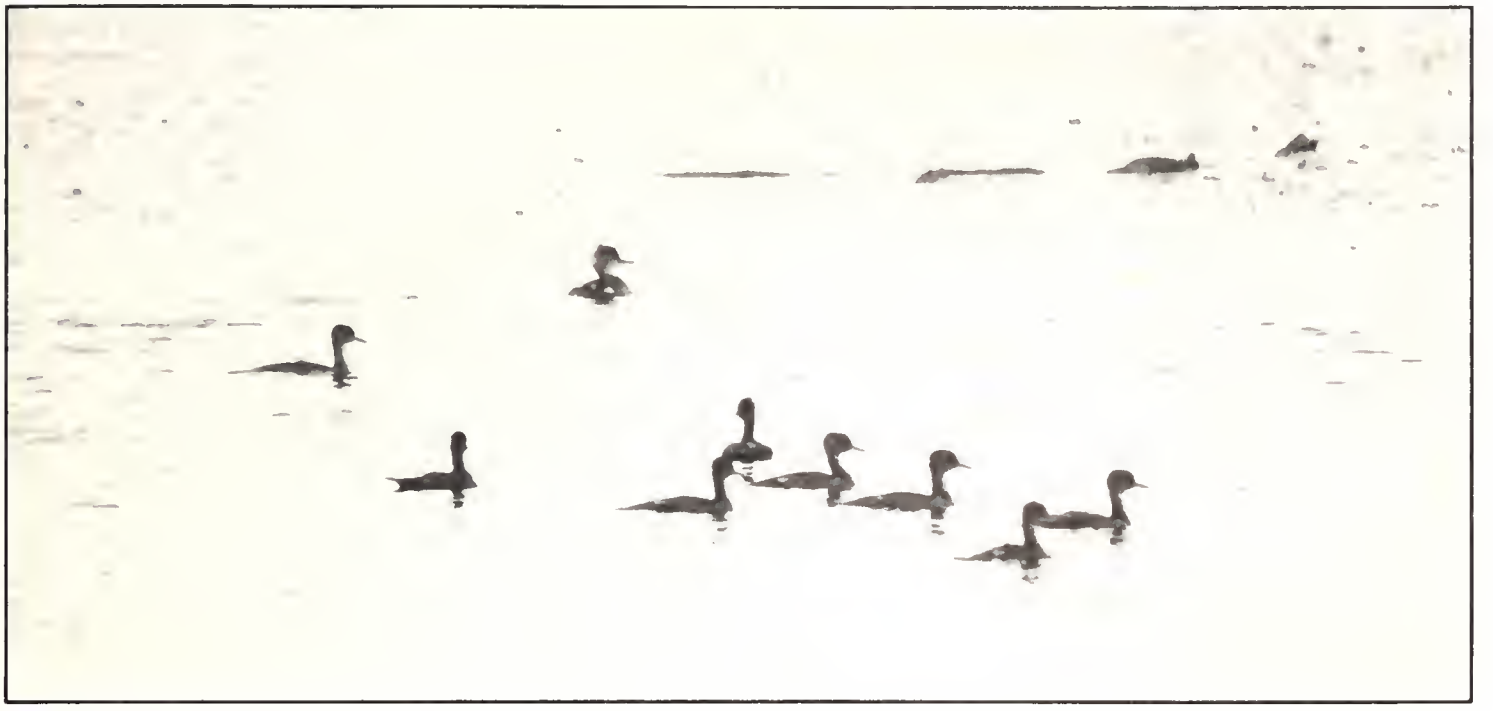
Hooded Merganser
Nest: Crabtree NC (2 nest boxes used for egg laying), 9 Apr. (CW). **Young:** New Boston (Mercer Co.) (female w/ 9 yg.), 19 May (BB); DPCA (female w/ 9 yg.), 15 June (JM). **Others:** Gallatin Co. (2), 1 June (MD, CWa); JP, 10 June (KC); Egger's Woods (Cook Co.) (female), 15 June (WM); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.), 16 June-12 July (ASt, PWa); LCal (female), 29 June (WM); L Zurich (Lake Co.) (juv.), 5 July-early Aug. (DJ); Evanston (2), 7 July (EW); LRSHNC, 16 July (WS); n.e. Coles Co. (male), 20 July (BH); Lake Forest, 23 July (DJ); Wilmette (2), 27-29 July (EW).

Common Merganser
Joliet (male), 28 May & 18 June, and (female), 10 & 26 July (JM).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
BROOD: Stickney (Cook Co.) female with yg., early Aug. (*RHb et al.--photos) - IL's first confirmed breeding. **Others:** Wilmette (male), 15 June-3 Sept. (EW); Joliet (male), 28 May-26 July+ (JM).

Ruddy Duck
Broods: MM (3 yg.), 25 June-12 July (EW); LCal (5 yg.), 29 June (WM); Riverdale (Cook Co.) (8 yg.), 7 July (WM); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (5 yg.), 12-18 July (PWa, mob); Itasca (2 yg.), 31 July (EW). **Others:** Riverdale (Cook Co.) (6 ad.), 7 July (WM).

Turkey Vulture
Nest: Black Partridge Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (2 yg.), early July (*JVo--photos). **M.C.:** 11, Palos FP, 4 May (PD); 7 (at roost), Kankakee River S.P., 3 June (JM). **Others:** Chi (Edgebrook Woods), 11 June (AA); Boone Co., 12 June (DCe); Castle Rock S.P., 14 June (DCe).



Female Hooded Merganser with brood of young at Des Plaines Conservation Area (Will Co.), 15 June 1991. Very rare breeder in Will County. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Osprey
Kankakee River S.P. (ad.), 3 June (JM).

Bald Eagle
Nests: UCCA (3 yg.), April/May (F, m.ob.); HLCA (1 yg.), April/May (F,m.ob.); Savanna Army Depot (1 yg.), 5 June (VK); Spring L Wildlife Area (Carroll Co.) (1 yg.), 5 June (VK); . **Others:** LShel (Moultrie Co.) (subad.), 3 Aug. (MD); Channahon (Will Co.) (banded subad.), 22 June (PWa).

Northern Harrier
7-8 May (pr.), Joliet Arsenal (BG et al.); 4 June (male), Mattoon (BH); 8 June (female), Piatt Co. (MD); 23 June (female), Logan Co. (MD); 30 June (female), Thomasboro (Champaign Co.) (C, EC); 8 July, Champaign Co. (EC); 24 July (male), Ashmore (Coles Co.) (NP).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Kinmundy (ad.), 22 June (RC).

Cooper's Hawk
Nests: Pope Co. (pr. at nest site), 27 May (TF); M.Arb, 14 Apr. (EW) - 7th straight year. **Others:** Dan Wright Woods (Lake Co.) (female), 8 June (EW); CBG (ad. with yg.), June (fide AA); RLCA (ad.), 14 July (RC); Spfld (ad), 18 July (DB); Wilton Center (Will Co.) (imm.), 26 June, and Braidwood (imm), 2 July (JM).

Red-shouldered Hawk
Nests: Waterfall Glen F.P. (Du Page Co.), late Apr. (fide EW) - 3rd straight year here. **Others:** MacArthur Woods (Lake Co.) (pr.), 8 June (EW); Joliet (male on territory), 7 June- 4 July (EW); Lockport, May/June (JM); Lincolnshire (pr.), 13 July (DJ).

Broad-winged Hawk
(s.e. Du Page Co.) (3 prs.), during June (fide EW); M.Arb (male on territory), 11 May (EW); Joliet (pr.), 27 May (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (subad.), 13 May (JM); Kinnickinnic Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (ad.), 12 June (DCe).

Swainson's Hawk
No information on Kane Co. nesting site.

Red-tailed Hawk
Nests: w. Will Co. (10), April thru June (JM).

American Kestrel
Nests: "abundant", LCal (JL). **Young:** 21 fledged from 6 of the 20 boxes along the Interstate around Spfld, May/June and 10 more from 2 additional boxes w of Spfld (JHt).

Peregrine Falcon
Nests: Chi (Wacker Bldg) (2 yg. hatched, both died). **Others:** Chi (Irving Park) (pr., but no nesting); Hyde Park (pr., but no nesting).

Ring-necked Pheasant
Nests: JP (11 eggs) (HR). **Others:** The 1991 pheasant index remained nearly the same as the 1990 index and the "auditory" count survey for 1991 averaged the second highest since 1976 (LD); however, the actual number of adult birds seen during the August survey routes was down 28% from 1990, and the number of August broods encountered was down 17% from 1990 results.

Northern Bobwhite
The 1991 bobwhite index declined 9% compared to the 1990 index (LD). **Others:** . Will Co. (14), 17 June (JM); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.), 28 June (EW); Grayslake, 29 May (fide DJ).

King Rail
Broods: GLPSP (ad. & 3 yg.), 2 July (EW). **Immature:** Monee (Will Co.) (along with 2 ad.), 26-28 June (AD). **Others:** Lockport (ad.), 24 May (JM).

Virginia Rail
Broods: GLPSP (5 yg.), 10 July (PWa); LCal (pr. with dead yg.), 29 June (AA); Burnham Prairie (downy yg.), 18 July (WM et al.). **Others:** Joliet (2--heard), 1 June (JM); LCal, 6-14 June (WM).

Sora
Brood: Crabtree N.C. (ad. with 4 yg.), 16 June (CW). **Heard:** Romeoville, 25 May (JM); Lockport, 28 May (JM); Joliet (2), 1 June (JM); Plainfield (3), 1 June (JM); Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.), 2-8 June (WM).

Common Moorhen
Nests: LCal, 4 June (WM et al.); Itasca, 19 June (fide EW). **Broods:** 15 (2-8 yg. totaling 67 yg.), LCal area, 6 June-7 Aug. (WM, SF, WS, m.ob.); 3, Crabtree N.C., 22 July-27 Aug. (CW et al.); 2 (7 yg. w/ 5 ad.), GLPSP, 12 July (BG et al.); 3, Beardstown, 8 July (TSt et al.); MM (1 yg), 10 July (EW); Lake Villa (Lake Co.) (5 yg.), 21-22 June (DJ); MS, 11 July (WS); Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.) (5 yg.), 22 June (WM); Redwing Slough (n.w. Lake Co.) (3 yg.), 6 June-31 July (JM, m.ob.); Romeoville (2 yg.), 13 June (JM). **MC:** 36, LCal, 28 July (JL).

American Coot
Nests: 5, Crabtree N.C., 31 May (CW); Schaumberg (ad on nest), 8 June (AA); Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.) (10 eggs), 5 June (WM); Joliet (2 eggs), 28 May (JM); Frontenac Marsh (s.w. Du Page Co.) (building), 11 May (EW). **Broods:** 6 (2-8 yg totaling 23 yg.), LCal area, 19 May-29 June (WM, SF, WS); 4+, Beardstown, 8 July (TSt et al.); 3 (8 yg), Van Vlissingen Prairie, 29 June (AA, WM); 2 (5 & 2 yg.), Riverdale (Cook Co.), 7 June-22 July (WM); Round Lake (Lake Co.) (20+ yg), 12 July (DJ); MM (11 yg.), 5 July (EW); Burnham Prairie (3 yg.), 23 June (WM); Schaumburg (6 yg.), 8 June (AA); E. Chicago Heights (4 yg.), 15 June (AA).

Sandhill Crane
Young: Sugar Grove (Kane Co.) (2 ad., 1 yg.), 19 May (*AH); Antioch (yg.), 1 June (J, m.ob.). **Others:** Volo Bog (Lake Co.) (pr.), June/July (DJ); IBSP (pr.), June/July (DJ); Joliet Arsenal, 7 May (BG et al.).

Lesser Golden-Plover
Spfld (non-breeding plumage), 13 June (DB).

Killdeer
Nests: JP (HR). **M.C.:** 37, LRSHNC, 4 May (PD). **Others:** "abundant", LCal, June/July (JL). First noted fledglings at M.Arb, 16 May (ASt).

Spotted Sandpiper
Chi's Sanitary & Ship Canal (1 yg.), 16 June (AA); Lockport (yg.), 1 July, and Joliet (yg.), 14 July (JM); M.Arb. (nearly-grown fledgling), 28 July (EW, WS); JP (7 sightings), 7 June-29 July (HR); "somewhat common", LCal, June/July (JL). **M.C.:**15, Wauk, 27 May (RP).

Upland Sandpiper
Young: 2, n. Hancock Co., 21 June (VK). **Others:** Joliet Arsenal (81 ads.), 7-8 May (BG et al.); Coles Co. airport (5+ ads.), all summer (BH); Decatur airport (pr.--no yg. observed), May/June (MD).

WHIMBREL
Straggler: Wauk, 22-29 June (DDz) and IBSP, 2 July (KHi).

Ruddy Turnstone
Straggler: Wauk (2), 22 June (DDz) and Chi, 30 June (JPu).

Common Snipe
GLPSP (3-9), early June-4 July (EW, WS, et al.); DPCA, 15 June (JM).

American Woodcock
Young: Braidwood (1 fledgling), 4 May (JM). **M.C.:** 14, LRSHNC, 4 May (PD); 8, Braidwood, 17 June (JM). **Others:** GLPSP (imm.), 2 July (EW).

Franklin's Gull
Spfld (1st summer), 5 June (DB); LCal, 22 June (JL).

Ring-billed Gull
Nests: LCal, downy yg. noted on 25 May (WM) & 1st fledglings on 15 June (JL). **M.C.:** 1580 (only 25 juvs.), Evanston/Wilmette, 30 June (EW); 710, JP, 28 July (HR). **Others:** Joliet (8-40), June/July (JM). Copulation observed in Wilmette on 22 May (EW). First juveniles away from nesting site: Evanston, 27 June (EW).

Herring Gull
Nests: 4, LCal, 23 May-3 June (WM) & 1st fledglings noted there, 15 June (JL). **Others:** Joliet (1-8), June/July (JM); Wilmette (14), 18 June (EW); JP (12+), 23 June (HR). First juveniles noted in Wilmette on 30 June (EW).

"Gull species"
M.C.: 6000+, LCal, 14 June (AA) - all Ring-billed & Herring gulls.

Caspian Tern
JP (2), 30 June (HR); Saganashkee Slough (ad.), 17 June (EW); Wilmette (ad.), 27 June and (4 ads.), 30 June (EW); Evanston (ad.), 5 July (EW).

Forster's Tern
Nests: COLSP (37 nests), 15 June (RHe). **Others:** Braidwood (2 subad.), 17 June (JM).

Least Tern
Young: Grand Tower (Jackson Co.) (20 ads., 1 fledgling), 5 Aug. (TF). (The island nest site in the Mississippi R. is actually on the Missouri side of the state line). **Others:** Sang.L (ad.), 23 June (DB).

Black Tern
Nest: Crabtree N.C. (with egg), 1 July (CW); Redwing Slough (eggs), 23 May (RK). **Others:** East Loon Lake (Lake Co.) (nesting presumed), 1 June-31 July (DJ); Round Lake (Lake Co.) (12 ads.--nesting presumed), 12 July (DJ); n.c. Du

Downy young Virginia Rail found dead at Lake Calumet's Van Vlissingen Prairie, Chicago (Cook Co.), 29 June, 1991. Photo by Walter Marcisz.

Second-summer Forster's Tern (two present) at Braidwood (Will Co.), 17 June 1991. Note white forehead, dark primaries. Photo by Joe Milosevich.

Page Co. (pr.), mid-June (fide EW).

Mourning Dove
M.C.: 58, JP, 27 July (HR).

Black-billed Cuckoo
25 July, n.w. Coles Co. (BH).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Brood: Richton Park (ad. feeding yg.), 12 June (AA). **M.C.**: 9, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM).

Common Barn-Owl
w. Vermilion Co., June/July (JS).

Great Horned Owl
Nests: Northern Illinois University campus (De Kalb), March/April (fide EB, m.ob.); 3, Orland Park, in March (WS); 3 (w/ yg.), Lake Co., in April (DJ)

Common Nighthawk
SRSF (12), June (RBj).

Female Acadian Flycatcher on nest at Hopedale (Tazewell Co.), 6 July 1991. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Chuck-will's-widow
SRSF (male), June (RBj).

Whip-poor-will
M.C.: 134 (males), SRSF, June (RBj). **Others**: s.w. Will Co. (3 locations), June/July (JM).

Chimney Swift
Nest: L Villa (5 eggs in chimney), 6 June (RK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Nests: McGlaughry Springs F.P. (Cook Co.) (female feeding yg. at nest), 10 June (WS). **Others**: 17 June (female), Saganashkee Slough (EW).

Belted Kingfisher
Nest: Chi's Sanitary & Ship Canal, 16 June (AA).

Red-headed Woodpecker
Broods: Cook Co. locations: Sauk Trail Woods, Evanston, Glenview, Evergreen Park, 12 June-7 Aug. (AA, m.ob.).

Hairy Woodpecker
M.C.: 10, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM).

Pileated Woodpecker
Ryerson C.A. (male), 1 June-1 July (DJ).

Eastern Wood Pewee
M.C.: 21, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM); 15, Joliet, 8 June (JM).

Acadian Flycatcher
Nests: Lockport, 10 June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (1 yg.), 15 July (JM); Hopedale (Tazewell Co.) (3 eggs), 6 July (JM); Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (male), 1 June (DCe); Kinnickinnic Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (male), 1 & 18 June (DCe); Plum Creek F.P. (male), 11 July (EW); Newman (Douglas Co.) (male), 8 June.

ALDER FLYCATCHER
Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (pr. present on territory), 7 June-11 July with male still there 14 July (*EW--audiotape); 13-18 July (male), Cherry Hills F.P. (Cook Co.) (SF, EW, m.ob.). First IL summering pr.

Willow Flycatcher
Nests: Burnham Prairie (3 eggs), 23 June (WM);

JP (HR). **M.C.**: 8, Lockport, 18 July (JM). **Others:** LCal (1-2), 15 June-28 July (JL); Plum Creek F.P. (2 yg.), 21 July (EW); GLPSP, 13 June (JHe).

Least Flycatcher
Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.), 17 June (EW); COLSP (2 males), 29 June (EW); IBSP (2), 9-11 June (DJ).

Eastern Phoebe
Nests: Dan Wright Woods (Lake Co.) (4 yg.), 16 May (EW); Orland Park (with yg.), 20 Apr. (WS); Schiller Woods (Cook Co.) (yg. recently fledged), 13 June (fide AA); Popular Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (with yg.), 22 June (fide AA). **Broods:** Plum Creek F.P. (4 yg.), 6 July (EW); Athens (Menard Co.) (3 fledged clutches--the banded female returned to the same nest site for four consecutive years), May thru July (VK).

Great Crested Flycatcher
Nests: JP (HR) > **M.C.**: 26, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM).

Eastern Kingbird
Nests: McDonald Woods (Lake Co.) (with yg.), 25 July (RK), Sun Lake (Lake Co.), with yg. 29 June (GJ).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER
Parnell (De Witt Co.) (ad. female), 16 June (*RP, *MD).

Horned Lark
Juv. present along Wilmette lakefront, 22 May (EW) - no nest habitat within 15 miles.

Purple Martin
LCal ("rather common in some areas"), June/July (JL).

Tree Swallow
Nests: JP (HR). **M.C.**: 72, LCal, 7 July (JL).

Rough-winged Swallow
Nests: Wilmette (3), 15 June (EW); 2, Chi, 14 June (AA); 2, Des Plaines, 11 June (AA).

Bank Swallow
Nests: Highland Park (Lake Co.) (12), 3 July (EW); Wilmette (10), 22 May (EW); JP (HR); LCal (JL); Braidwood (a few), June/July (JM); Joliet quarry (100), June/July (JM). **M.C.**: 300, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co.), 2 June (WS); 11, JP, 2 June (HR).

Cliff Swallow
Nests: 8, Wilton Center (Will Co.), 19 June (JM); 7, s.w. Winnebago Co., 14 June (DCe); "several", GLNTC (on boat dock), June/July (DJ); 3, Decatur, July (MD); +, Spfld, 23 June (DB). **Others:** Skokie Lagoons (3 prs.), 19 May (EW).

Brown Creeper
Spfld (male), 6 June (DB); Romeoville (male feeding female in courtship), 24 Apr. (JM), and male there, 8 June (CA).

Carolina Wren
Nests: Palos F.P., 15 May-1 June (fide AA); DPCA (6 eggs), 15 June (JM); 2, Park Forest (Will Co.), 29 July (AD); Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co.), 4 May (LV et al.); Du Page Co., in May (fide EW). **Others:** Forest Park (4 other territorial males), May/July (AD); Plum Creek F.P. (2 broods of 1 yg. each), 28 June & 6 July (EW)--4 males there on 21 July; w. Will Co. (14 males in 11 locations), June/July (JM); GLNTC (yg.), 25 Aug. (DJ); e.c. Illinois--"completely recovered from late 1970's die-off" (RC).

Bewick's Wren
Nests: Decatur (2 broods = 7 yg.), May-July (*MD).

House Wren
M.C.: 33, Romeoville, 13 June (JM).

Sedge Wren
M.C.: 31, GLPSP, 4 July (EW); 5 (4 males, 1 female), DPCA, 17 July (JM). **Others:** Popular Creek F.P. (ad. feeding yg.), 11 Aug. (fide AA); Beardstown (3-4), 8 July (TSt et al.); s.e. Coles Co. (6+ prs.), June/July (BH); Arcola (4 singing males), 21-28 July (RC). Wet spring may have created habitat for the increased numbers noted.

Marsh Wren
Nests: MM (3--all w/ yg.), 12 July (EW) - each with 2-10 "dummy" nests nearby; LCal (3--12 eggs total), 4-29 June (WM). **Others:** w. Will Co. (10 males in 4 locations), June (JM); MM (9 males), 12 July (EW); Beardstown (4), 8 July

(TSt et al.); at least 7 marshes in Cook Co. with singing males (AA).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Nests: M.Arb (3+), May/July (EW, RCo). **M.C.:** 13, COLSP, 29 June (EW); 8, Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.), 17 June (EW); 8 (ads.), Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM); 5 (ads.), DPCA, 15 June (JM). Broods at Plum Creek F.P., M.Arb, Ryerson C.A., Saganashkee Slough, COLSP, Palos F.P., Popular Creek F.P. and other n.e. IL areas.

Eastern Bluebird
Still increasing as a result of the very successful nest box and trail system throughout Illinois.

Veery
Nests: Thorn Creek N.C., 17 June (AD). **Others:** Joliet (pr. w/ yg.), 8 June (JM); COLSP (3 males), 29 June (EW); Highland Park (Lake Co.), 3 July (EW); Lockport (male), 31 May-1 July (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (pr.), 5 June (JM); Goodenow Grove F.P. (Will Co.) (ad.), 1 July (JM).

Wood Thrush
Nests: Champaign, 13 June (EC); Lockport (4 yg., no cowbirds), 10 June (JM). **M.C.:** 29 (ads.), w. Will Co. (4 locations), 3-21 June (JM).

American Robin
M.C.: 60, JP, 2 June (DA).

Gray Catbird
Nests: JP (HR). **M.C.:** 23, Braidwood, 17 June (JM).

Northern Mockingbird
Decatur (15), 13 July (MD); Coles Co. (10+ prs.), June/July (BH); s.w. Will Co. (7), June/July (JM); Waukegan (ad.), 28 July (DJ); Champaign Co., 6 June (RC); Monticello (Piatt Co.), 7 June (RC).

Loggerhead Shrike
Nests: 3, Joliet Arsenal, 7-8 May (BG et al.); Homer L (Champaign Co.) (pr. w/ 2 yg.), 15 May-9 June (C, m.ob.). **Others:** s.w. of Spfld (female w/ 3 yg.), 14 June (DB); University Park (Will Co.) (pr.), 30 July (AD); Ashmore (Coles Co.) (ad.), June/July (NP); Piatt Co. (pr.), June (MD); Havana (male), June (MD); Griggsville (male), 22 June (MD); Clark Co. (male), June (MD); Clin.L (pr. w/ 3 yg.), 17 June (RC).

Cedar Waxwing
M.C.: 28, w. Du Page Co., 25 June (EW).

White-eyed Vireo
Nests: Plum Creek F.P. (3 yg.), 11 July (EW). **Others:** e. Grundy Co. (3 males), 18 June (JM); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (2 males), 17 June (EW); Lockport, 3 July (EW); DPCA (male), 15 & 26 June (JM); Ford Co., 24 June (EC).

Bell's Vireo
Nest: Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (pr. building, later abandoned), 7 June (EW). **Others:** Braidwood (3 males), June/July (JM); Lockport (male), 10 June (JM); GLPSP (2 males), 3 June (JHe); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) 21 July (EW).

Yellow-throated Vireo
M.C.: 19, w. Will Co., June (JM); 10 (males), Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.), 17 June (EW); 9 (7 males), COLSP, 29 June (EW).

Warbling Vireo
Nests: JP (HR). **M.C.:** 8, JP, 9 June (HR).

Red-eyed Vireo
Nests: JP (HR). **M.C.:** 39, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM); 21, Dan Wright Woods (Lake Co.), 8 June (EW); 19, Joliet, 8 June (JM); 5, JP, 4 June (HR). **Others:** DPCA (ad. feeding large cowbird), 17 July (JM).

Blue-winged Warbler
Nest: Somme Woods F.P. (Cook Co.) (3 eggs), 5 June (JSu); Plum Creek F.P. (just fledged yg.), 11 July (EW); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (territory), 17 June (EW); Decatur (singing male), 23 May (MD); Palos (singing male), 2 June (JL).

Northern Parula
Newman (Douglas Co.) (male), 8 June (RC) & 7 July (EC); Wilton Center (Will Co.) (male), 19 June (JM).

Yellow Warbler
Nests: JP (HR); LCal (JL); Powderhorn Marsh (Cook Co.) (5 eggs), 2 June (WM); Romeoville, 25 May (JM). **M.C.:** 11, Braidwood, 17 June

Ovenbird defending fledged cowbird at Kankakee River State Park (Will Co.), 5 June, 1991. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Fledgling Blue Grosbeak in western Will County, 13 August 1991. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

(JM); 8, JP, 10 June (HR); 7, Kinmundy (Marion Co.), 23 June (RC); 7, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Spfld (male), 12 June (DB); Lyons Woods (Lake Co.) (male), 23 June-31 July+ (DJ); Chi, 1 July (RH).

Black-throated Green Warbler
Wadsworth (male), 10 June (DJ).

Yellow-throated Warbler
Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (male), 1 & 12 June (DCe); Decatur (2 singing males), July (MD).

Cerulean Warbler
Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (male), 1-14 June (DCe); Kinnickinnic Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (male), 12 June (DCe); COLSP, 29 June (EW); Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.) (male), 17 June (EW); Kankakee River S.P. (2 males), 3 & 5 June (JM); Spfld (male), 12 June (DB).

Black-and-white Warbler
Decatur (ad.), 6 July (*RP, MD).

American Redstart
Nests: Palos, 2 June (JL). **M.C.: 29** (24 males), Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co.), 17 June (EW); 7 (4 males, 1 imm.), COLSP, 29 June (EW). **Others:** DPCA (4), 15 June (JM); Kankakee River S.P. (male), 3 June-2 July (JM).

Prothonotary Warbler
Romeoville (pr. feeding fledgling), 13 June (JM).

Worm-eating Warbler
Spfld (male), 12 June (DB); Chatham (Sangamon Co.) (male), 2 & 7 July (DB).

Ovenbird
Nests: Gallatin Co. (w/ eggs), 2 June (EC). **M.C.:** 11 (10 males, 1 female), Kankakee River S.P., 5 June (JM); Dan Wright Woods (Lake Co.) (pr. near nest), 8 June (EW). **Others:** Joliet (3 males), 8 June (JM); Lockport (6 males), 31 May (JM); MacArthur Woods (Lake Co.) (male), June/July (EW); M.Arb (male), June/July (EW); Clin.L (3 prs. + yg.), 30 June (*DP, MD); Severson Dells F.P. (Winnebago Co.) (2 males), 14 June (DCe); Kinniskinnic Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (2), 18 June (DCe); Chi, 22-29 June (KHi); Hopedale (Tazewell Co.) (male), 6 July (JM); Spfld (4), 10 June (DB); Barrington (male), 10 June (AA).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH
Decatur, 6 July (*RP, *MD).

Louisiana Waterthrush
Young: Pr. feeding 2 cowbirds, McGlaughry Woods F.P. (Cook Co.), 18 June (WS). **Others**: Dan Wright Woods (Lake Co.) (3 males), 8 June (EW); MacArthur Woods (Lake Co.) (male), 8 June (EW); Lockport (male), 31 May and Joliet (male), 8 June (JM); Severson Dells F.P. (male), 14 June (DCe).

Kentucky Warbler
Nests: Joliet (5 yg.), 8 June (JM). **Others**: Kankakee River S.P. (3 prs. w/ yg.), 2 & 15 July (JM); Severson Dells F.P. (male), 14 June (DCe); Joliet (male), 7 June-4 July (EW).

Common Yellowthroat
M.C.: 28, Braidwood, 17 June (JM).

Hooded Warbler
Lyons Woods (Lake Co.) (male), 23 June-31 July+ (DJ).

Canada Warbler
Wilmette, 5 July (fide RB); Wadsworth (male), 20 July (SP).

Yellow-breasted Chat
M.C.: 14, Braidwood, 17 June (JM); 6 (males), Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.), 17 June-11 July+ (EW). **Others**: Cuba Marsh (Lake Co.) (3 males), June/July (DJ); Kinnickinnic Creek C.A. (Boone Co.) (singing male--2nd consecutive year), 18 June (DCe); Kankakee River S.P. (2 males), 3 June & 2 July (JM).

Summer Tanager
Nests: w. Will Co., 17 June (JM). **Others**: w. Will Co. (6 ad.--3 males, 3 females--not all prs.), 1 May-16 July (JM); Newman (Douglas Co.) (male), 8 June (RC) & 7 July (EC).

Scarlet Tanager
Nests: Palos (Cook Co.), 18 June (WS). **M.C.**: 15 (14 males), Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM); 13 (11 males), w. Will Co., June/July (JM). **Others**: Thorn Creek N.P. (pr.), 29 July (AD); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (female feeding yg.), 21 July (EW); Glenview (female feeding yg.), 1 Aug. (AA).

Blue Grosbeak
w. Will Co. (pr. w/ 3 yg. & pr. w/ 2 yg.--3 other males nearby), 13 Aug. (JM); Mahomet (male), 5 May-8 July (RC, m.ob.); Arcola, 4-13 July (RC); Spfld (male), June/July (DB); Kinmundy (Marion Co.) (4 males), 23 June (RC).

Indigo Bunting
M.C.: 53, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM). Nests with yg. found 12-16 June in Cook Co. locations (AA).

Dickcissel
M.C.: 50+ (males), Buckley (Ford/McLean Co.), 29 June (RC); 48, s.w. Will Co., June/July (JM); 38, GLPSP, 4 July (EW); 30 (24 males), Du Page Co. (3 sites), 25 June (EW); "numerous", e. Will Co., 4 July (AD). **Others**: Buffalo Grove (Lake Co.) (2 yg.), 16 July (DJ); Grayslake (nest w/ 1 egg), 7 July (SD).

Chipping Sparrow
M.C.: 23, New Lenox B.B.S. Rt. (Will Co.), 3 July (JM).

Vesper Sparrow
Young: Lockport, 1 July (JM). **M.C.**: 37, Fairland B.B.S. Rt. (Champaign/Piatt Co.), 6 June (RC); 31, Monticello B.B.S. Rt. (Piatt/McLean Co.), 7 June (RC). **Others**: Crabtree N.C., 21 July (AA).

Lark Sparrow
Braidwood (ad. & yg.), 27 June (JM); Clark Co. (pr. w/ 1 yg.), 29 June (MD); Lancaster (Wabash Co.), 15 June (RC); Penfield (Champaign Co.) (2), 28 July (RC); n.w. of Spfld (2 locations) (1 & 3), 10 June & 17 June, resp. (DB).

Savannah Sparrow
Nest: Half Day (Lake Co.) (3 eggs), 8 July (DJ). **M.C.**: 49, Du Page Co. (7 sites), 25 June (EW); 46 (31 singing males), Palatine, 10 June (AA). **Others**: Lockport (8 ad. and several yg.), 18 July (JM).

Grasshopper Sparrow
Nest: Grayslake (1 egg), 7 July (SD). **M.C.**: 40+ (males), Buckley B.B.S. Rt. (Ford/McLean co.), 29 June (RC); 23 (17 males), Du Page Co. (4 sites), 25 June (EW); "widespread", s.w. Will Co., June/July (JM). **Brood**: Busse Woods F.P. (ad. feeding yg.), 24-29 July (fide AA).

Henslow's Sparrow
-**M.C.**: 15 (males), GLPSP, 4-12 July (EW, JHE, m.ob); 7, Du Page Co. (3 sites), 29 June (fide EW); w. Pope Co., 21 May (TF); s.w. Saline Co., 8 Aug. (JDe).

Song Sparrow
M.C.: 38, LRSHNC, 4 May (PD).

Swamp Sparrow
Beardstown, 18 June (CB); MM (2 males), May/-July (EW); Frontenac Marsh (Du Page Co.), May/July (EW).

White-crowned Sparrow
Chi (Grant Park) (singing male), 2-19 July (KHi).

DARK-EYED JUNCO
Thomasboro (Champaign Co.), 8 July (*EC).

Bobolink
M.C.: 74 (one flock--ads. & imms.), DPCA, 17 July (JM); 64 (41 males), Du Page Co. (5 sites), 25 June (EW); 41 (one flock--ads. & imms.), Lockport, 18 July (JM); 34 (26 males), Tinley Park, 15 June (AA) - numbers slightly down overall in Cook Co. (AA). **Others**: s.e. Coles Co. (7--4 male, 3 female minimum, w/ at least one successful nest), 25 May-2 July (BH).

Eastern Meadowlark
M.C.: 77, Du Page Co. (8 sites), 25 June (EW); 17 (15 males), Bartlett, 8 June (AA).

Western Meadowlark
"several singing", Beecher (Will Co.), 15 June (AD); male, Lake Co., June/July/Aug. (SD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Nests: 3, LCal, June/July (JL); 2, MM, 10 July (EW); Egger's Woods (Cook Co.) (female building), 18 May (WM). **Others**: Grayslake (ad. with 3+ yg.), 19 June (SD); Redwing Slough (Lake Co.) (ad. with + + yg.), 6 June (RK); LCal area (34 prs.), 7 July (JL); JP, 15 June (KC); Green River C.A. (Lee Co.) (5), June/July (JK); Schaumberg (9--6 males), 8 June (AA); Egger's Woods (8 males), 18 May (WM).

Orchard Oriole
Nests: DPCA, 16 July (JM). **Young**: DPCA (4 imms.), 16 July (JM); Braidwood, 17 June (JM); GLPSP (1 & 2), 4 July (EW); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co.) (3), 21 July (EW). **M.C.**: 22 (ads.), Will Co., June/July (JM); 10 (3 males), GLPSP, 4 July (EW). Others: M.Arb (2), May/June (EW); Burnham Prairie (female), 8 June (WM).

Northern Oriole
M.C.: 22, Kankakee River S.P., 3 & 5 June (JM).

House Finch
M.C.: 37, LCal, 22 June (JL).

RED CROSSBILL
Nest: IBSP, 14 Apr. (*AS). **Others**: Woodstock (pr.) thru 10 May (*WD, RHu).

Pine Siskin
Nest: M.Arb. (nest building), 6 Apr> (EW). **Others**: M.Arb (3 prs.), 4 May (EW)

EXOTICS:

Ringed Turtle-Dove
Nests: Joliet, 4 June (JM). **Others**: "many everywhere", Joliet, June/July (JM).

Monk Parakeet
At least 10 active nests in JP & other active nests in nearby Hyde Park (HR); pr., Lincolnwood, 9 June (EW); Wilmette, 18 July (JL) and 26 July (EW); Calumet Harbor (1-2), 14 June-8 Aug. (AA); nested in Wheaton & n.e. Du Page Co. again.

Again, many thanks to all contributors and reporters who made this compilation possible. Some records not included in this report are still being reviewed by I.O.R.C. and may be included in an addenda of a future report. In submitting Field Notes, contributors are requested to send their notes to the appropriate seasonal editor according to the schedule which appears on the following page (addresses of the four seasonal editors are listed following the schedule).

Season	Date Reports due to FIELD NOTES EDITOR
WINTER SEASON 1 December - 29 February	7 March
SPRING MIGRATION 1 March - 31 May	7 June
BREEDING SEASON 1 June - 31 July	7 August
FALL MIGRATION 1 August - 30 November	7 December

FIELD NOTES COMPILERS:

Breeding Season
Vernon Kleen
Natural Heritage Div.
Dept. of Conservation
524 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Fall Migration
Robert Chapel
306 1/2 West California
Urbana, IL 61801

Winter Season
Robert Danley
2201 Clay Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Spring Migration
Eric Walters
720 Reba Place
Evanston, IL 60202

CONTRIBUTORS

Judy De Neal publishes *Springhouse*, a regional magazine about southern Illinois where she lives. De Neal has written for *Illinois Times*, *Illinois Audubon* and *Illinois Birds & Birding*.

Dr. Scott Hickman is a professor of biology at College of Lake County in Grayslake. He served for two years as chairman of the Smith Symposium Committee at Ryerson Conservation Area. He received his doctorate in ornithology from the University of Illinois/Chicago.

Todd Fink works as a heritage biologist in the Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division. Fink also serves as an IOS board member.

Sue Friscia serves as membership chairman for the Chicago Ornithological Society and field trip chairman for IOS.

Vernon M. Kleen is an avian ecologist in the Illinois Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division. He has actively been working on breeding bird data for Illinois for at least a decade and serves as summer field notes compiler for the state.

Bill Oakes is photo chief for Pioneer Press Newspapers in Barrington and an award winning photo journalist.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Manuscripts, poetry, essays, photographs and illustrations pertaining to information on birds in the State of Illinois or nearby states will be considered for publication in *Meadowlark*.

Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, technical articles on various topics (example: how birds keep warm in winter) and non-technical articles such as birding hot spots in Illinois. Personal accounts of birding will also be considered but should preferably refer to an unusual phenomenon (example: the day it snowed on the spring bird count.) Writers may also query editor regarding story ideas.

All manuscripts submitted should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please avoid dot matrix submissions.

We strongly urge you to submit a computer disc sized 5 and 1/4 inches and formatted for ascii along with two hard copies of your manuscript. This will expedite decision regarding your manuscript and the editing process.

The author's name, address and day and night time phone numbers should be included with the manuscript. For unassigned articles, please submit a cover page describing the content of the manuscript and other pertinent information such as the author's interests or professional qualifications.

Materials will be returned only if a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage is included.

Photographs should be clear black and white prints or 35 mm color slides. Color prints will also be accepted, but bear in mind that these photos lose quality when reprinted in black and white.

Pen and ink drawings are also accepted. The art editor will gladly work with illustrators.

Submit articles with or without illustrations and photographs. Suggestions for accompanying art would be helpful.

The chief editor, associate editors and the editorial board reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy and readability. Technical articles will be reviewed by technical editors. Use current articles in the IOS journal as a guide for style, length and content.

We welcome and appreciate your submissions.

DEADLINE DATES: Summer Issue - April 1; Fall Issue - July 1; Winter Issue - October 1; Spring Issue - January 1. These dates are subject to change.

Send material to: Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor, 967 Braeburn Road, Mundelein, Illinois 60060.

For illustrations, contact Walter Marcisz at (708) 385-8967.

Meadowlark
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Look at six eggs
in a mockingbird's nest.

Listen to six mockingbirds
Flinging follies of O-be-joyful
Over the marshes and uplands.

Look at songs
hidden in eggs.

--Carl Sandburg